

Outbreak control measures

Gatherings

The more people gathered, the greater the risk of infection, particularly if social distancing is not possible. The risk increases when people stand close together indoors with poor ventilation. An increasing number of reports establish that many people are infected in connection with various cultural and sports events, celebrations, religious festivals etc. The following measures are introduced in light of the recent spread of COVID-19:

1. The maximum number of people who can gather will be reduced from 100 people to 50 people as from 19 September 2020 at 12.00 noon.

This means that it will normally not be allowed to attend indoor or outdoor events, activities etc. with more than 50 people gathering simultaneously at the same location. A number of exemptions from the ban will still apply, such as in private homes and adjacent gardens and ordinary activities at workplaces etc. Further, it will still be possible to host and attend events etc. with up to 500 participants if the participants are mainly seated.

2. The scheme allowing Super League football matches with more than 500 people gathered simultaneously will no longer apply from the same date.

This means that a maximum of 500 people can attend Super League football matches simultaneously if the participants are mainly seated.

3. The scheme allowing indoor and outdoor sports events etc. at facilities etc. where more than 500 people attend simultaneously (the adjusted directions for Super League matches) will no longer apply from the same date.

This means that a maximum of 500 people can attend indoor and outdoor sports events etc. if the participants are mainly seated.

Restaurants and nightlife

The infection rate among young people has increased lately, which means that young people account for a larger proportion of hospitalised COVID-19 patients. At the same time, there is generally an increased risk of spread of the disease, for which reason it is necessary to curtail activities during the night and early morning hours. This is required in order to keep other parts of society open. The following measures are introduced in light of the recent spread of COVID-19:

4. The opening hours of restaurants, bars, cafes and similar establishments with the required licences will be limited to 10.00 pm as from 19 September at 12.00 noon. This will be supplemented by intensified surveillance by the police in areas attracting large gatherings (hotspots) for the purpose of issuing bans on loitering in case of congestion and the like at the end of the opening hours of establishments. It is no longer possible for establishments to stay open from 10.00 pm to 5.00 am to host private parties attended by people largely familiar to each other. However, establishments can stay open from 10.00 pm to 5.00 am to sell takeaway food and drinks.

5. As from 19 September 2020 at 12.00 noon, guests at restaurants, bars, cafes and similar establishments will be required to wear a face mask or shield except when seated. This requirement applies to both guests and employees having contact with guests. The same exemptions to the requirement to wear a face mask apply as those applicable in public transport (children etc.).

The requirement applies when guests arrive at restaurants, when they leave the restaurant and when they leave their table, for example to use the bathroom. Face masks must also be used by guests when they go to the bar to order food or drinks, to pay etc. The requirement applies indoors but not outdoors. The requirements, recommendations etc. will be evaluated on an ongoing basis under the auspices of the relevant sector partnerships.

6. A requirement to display signs stating the maximum number of customers, visitors or participants allowed at the premises will be introduced as from 19 September 2020 at 12.00 noon for premises subject to the floor area requirement introduced in the Executive Order Banning Large Gatherings and Banning Access to and Imposing Restrictions on Certain Premises and Locations to Control COVID-19. This will help the police enforce the Executive Order.

The requirement will apply to all premises subject to a maximum number of customers, visitors or participants allowed at the premises. In consequence, the requirement also applies to premises other than restaurants, bars, cafes and similar establishments. The requirements, recommendations etc. will be evaluated on an ongoing basis under the auspices of the relevant sector partnerships.

7. Guests at restaurants, bars, cafes and similar establishments should pay greater attention to the requirement of a minimum distance of one metre (from nose to nose). Owners of such establishments should contribute to a relevant extent to ensuring that guests staying outside the premises of the establishments are able to keep the recommended minimum distance of one metre. The measure will be implemented in more detail in the guidelines agreed by the sector partnership.

8. Owners of restaurants, bars, cafes and similar establishments are encouraged to introduce voluntary registration of the contact data of guests and to hand over the data to the health authorities for the purpose of tracing outbreaks.

The Danish Data Protection Agency (Datatilsynet) has prepared six pieces of good advice for the registration of contact data of guests at restaurants.

9. Citizens are encouraged to download and actively use the smitte|stop tracing app.

Citizens are encouraged to use the smitte|stop app, which is a digital tool intended to break chains of infection at locations where COVID-19 is spreading, such as in public transport and at bars, restaurants etc. where people meet persons they do not know. In case someone is tested positive for COVID-19, the app provides easy access to notify people with whom that person has been in close contact.

10. It is no longer allowed to consume alcohol on coaches and buses operated under the Danish Coach and Bus Services Act (*buskørselsloven*).

Buses designed for parties, dancing and the consumption of alcohol are believed to represent a major source of COVID-19 infections.

Retail shops

Every day, retail shops have many customers who are outside their usual social networks and who represent a risk of congestion. The following measures are introduced in light of the recent spread of COVID-19:

11. Retail stores larger than 2,000 square metres, including durable goods shops, grocery shops, shopping centres, department stores, bazars and shopping arcades, are now required to appoint visible supervisory staff. The tasks of such staff will be specified in the guidelines to be agreed by the sector partnerships and the requirement is expected to apply as from 25 September 2020. Small retail stores are also encouraged to appoint similar supervisory staff to prevent congestion at the premises. All retail shops are encouraged to prevent congestion during peak hours with many customers and to ensure that customers use sanitizer and comply with the rules on social distancing.

The requirement involves that staff must be visible in sales areas to ensure compliance with the requirements and recommendations introduced to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. Families are recommended to let one family member do the shopping.

The purpose of the recommendation is to reduce the number of customers in shops.

Social activities and private parties

Major chains of infection have lately been traced back to private parties, social events at educational institutions, civic festivals (open-by-night) or other public events. Accordingly, the following measures are introduced:

13. It is generally recommended to avoid handshakes, cheek-kissing and hugging, to maintain a minimum distance of one metre, to limit close physical contact and to reduce the number of contacts. Obviously, other rules apply to people living together, families, sweethearts, on dates etc. Normally, people should only have close physical contact (hugs, kisses, holding hands) with a small group of people. It is also recommended to limit social activities with others, both as regards the number of people gathering, the duration of the event and the number of different people. No specific recommendation is made as to the number of persons that people can associate with. This depends on their age, work, social factors etc.

Citizens can continue their everyday lives – education, work, restaurant visits, leisure time activities etc.

The Danish Health Authority (Sundhedsstyrelsen) has regularly described how to cope with and act in social contexts during the COVID-19 pandemic, both in its general recommendations ‘COVID-19: How to prevent the spread of the disease’ (in Danish) and also in ‘Good advice on social events, celebrations and parties’ (in Danish). Moreover, the Danish Health Authority has published ‘Good advice for young people’ (in Danish), which is targeted at young people on relevant social media.

14. It is recommended to cancel all civic festivals and similar events (such as open-by-night involving retail shops, institutions etc. in the public space).

These are events at which many people gather in town, sometimes in combination with business and cultural life, which can be characterised by circumstances, such as the consumption of alcohol involving 'loss of control', that increase the risk of non-compliance with the recommendations on social distancing and hand hygiene. The Danish Patient Safety Authority (Styrelsen for Patientsikkerhed) has reported disease outbreaks that can be traced back to such events.

15. It is recommended to cancel all social events at day-care facilities, primary and lower secondary schools, after-school facilities, upper secondary schools, institutions of higher education etc.

The recommendation also applies to events not organised by the institution or school, such as school parties, birthdays, camps etc., even though the children and young people normally spend the day together.

16. Weddings, confirmations and similar special occasion days that have already been scheduled can be held if it is possible to follow the advice of the Danish Health Authority set out in 'Private events, parties and celebrations during the period of COVID-19' (in Danish), but the event ought to end at 10.00 pm at the latest.
17. Citizens are recommended to hold other events, parties and celebrations at private homes only for close family members and friends.

The recommendation is in line with the Danish Health Authority's more stringent recommendation to limit the number of guests, to increase the attention to social distancing and activities that may increase the risk of infection such as community singing, speeches, dancing and party games.

Workplaces and public transport

As a country we need to overcome the economic challenges caused by the health crisis in order to restore economic growth and create new jobs. Accordingly, we must keep the wheels turning and keep up productivity in society. At the same time, going to work physically typically involves more activity and moving around, including outside the contact network, which increases the risk of infection. The following measures are introduced in light of the recent spread of COVID-19:

18. Public and private employers are encouraged to make sure that employees work from home to the extent possible and appropriate given the nature of the job.
19. Employees are encouraged not go to work if they have symptoms.

The recommendation is a key element of the health authorities' general recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

20. Public and private employers are encouraged to ensure that all social events at and in connection with workplaces are cancelled.
21. Citizens are encouraged to travel outside rush hours and to walk or take the bike when travelling short distances.

Passengers on public transport, such as buses, trains, the Metro etc., often have to stand very close during rush hours. Passengers are therefore encouraged to consider whether it

is possible to travel outside rush hours by rescheduling an appointment or going to work earlier or later in the day etc. (if it is not possible to work from home). Passengers are encouraged to walk or take the bike when travelling short distances if possible. In that way it is possible to avoid close contact with other people during the journey and allow more space for other passengers who might not have the same options.

The health sector, the elderly care sector, institutions for people with mental disorders or special needs etc.

The vulnerable groups in society must be protected in the best way possible. Infections among healthcare staff at hospitals, nursing homes etc. have increased lately as have infections at nursing homes. Accordingly, the following measures are introduced:

22. The Danish Health Authority has launched stricter guidelines for the use of personal protective equipment (face masks/shields) in the general healthcare sector and at elderly care facilities: hospitals, independent therapists, nursing care facilities etc. (for staff, patients and visitors). The guidelines also apply to certain 24-hour care facilities for particularly vulnerable citizens.
23. In collaboration with local authorities, the Danish Patient Safety Authority will pay increasing attention to the protection of vulnerable citizens at nursing homes and institutions for people with mental disorders or special needs by issuing visiting restrictions and possibly a ban.

The measures will apply until at least 4 October 2020.