



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Heads of Mission accredited to Oslo and has the honour to refer to i) new national Covid-19-measures, ii) changes in the regulation on Covid-19-measures regarding the exemption from quarantine duty § 6 c for foreign workers, and iii) new Covid-19-measures adopted by Oslo City Government.

i) New national Covid-19-measures

The Government has introduced new targeted measures for a time-limited period in order to safeguard life and health. The following national measures came into effect from Wednesday 28 October:

- The maximum number of guests at social gatherings in private homes, gardens or cottages should not exceed five, in addition to the household members. If all the guests come from the same household, more than five guests are permitted. This means that two families with many children can still meet.
- The restriction limiting social gatherings to five guests does not apply to day care centre or primary school cohorts. Children who are in the same cohort at a day care centre or primary school are exempted from the requirement to maintain social distancing at events.

Heads of Mission
accredited to Oslo

- In general, members of the public are advised to limit their social interaction to fewer people and to shorter periods of time, and to reduce the overall number of people they meet in the course of a week.
- The number of participants attending private events held in public places or in leased or borrowed venues may not exceed a maximum of 50.
- The current maximum of 600 attendees at outdoor events is limited to events where all attendees are seated in fixed seats.
- The Government has proposed a number of measures to make it easier for municipalities to monitor compliance with the rules that apply to events, establishments serving food and drink, and employees

For further information, please see

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/new-national-restrictions/id2776995/>

ii) Changes in the regulation on Covid-19-measures regarding the exemption from quarantine duty § 6 c for foreign workers

The Government has tightened the rules on quarantine for foreign workers arriving Norway. Foreign workers who have been in an area where the level of infection is particularly high during the 10-day period before their arrival in Norway, as listed in the regulation annex B, will no longer be able to be exempted from the duty of quarantine during work hours on the basis of undergoing tests for COVID-19, see section 6c of the COVID-19 regulations. The general requirement to go into quarantine on entry to Norway will therefore apply in principle to all workers arriving from these areas. For further information, please see

<https://www.fhi.no/en/news/2020/endringer-i-unntak-fra-karanteneplikten-6-c-for-utenlandske-arbeidstakere/>.

Foreign workers arriving from areas of the EEA and Switzerland not listed in annex B, may be exempt from the duty to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival to Norway under the exemption of § 6c when obtaining a negative result on a test taken after arriving in Norway. The exemption will only apply when traveling to and from work and when working, but not during leisure time. Close contact, that is direct contact or at least two meters when together for more than 15 minutes, shall still be avoided. Furthermore, a new test with a negative result has to be obtained every third day during the quarantine period of 10 days to keep being exempted from the duty to quarantine. The exemption will still only apply when traveling to and from work and when working, but not during leisure time, after the following tests. Additionally, the person has to reside in a separate room during the 10 first days after entering Norway.

iii) New Covid-19-measures adopted by Oslo City Government

The Oslo City Government has introduced new Corona virus-measures in Oslo with effect from 29 October.

- Compulsory face masks at indoor public spaces (shops, shopping centres) where 1 metre distance cannot be kept.
- Compulsory face masks indoors at pubs and restaurants for all employees and guests when not sitting at a table.
- No new entries to pubs and restaurants after 10 pm (22.00).
- Upper limit of 20 people at all indoor events which do not have fixed seating, down from 50.
- Home office working whenever possible, and a requirement for all employers to document that their staff have been informed that they should do office work from home as far as is practically possible.

- It is recommended to avoid having more than 10 contacts during the week with people in social settings, apart for members of the your own household and cohorts at kindergartens and schools.

For further information, please see

<https://www.oslo.kommune.no/english/coronavirus/status-reports-on-coronavirus-measures/26-october-oslo-city-government-is-asking-everyone-to-limit-social-contact-to-a-minimum>

Other municipalities including Bærum have also announced that new measures will be adopted.

The Missions are kindly advised to stay informed about the changes in the different rules and regulations on Covid-19 measures, which can be found on the above websites and different news channels.

The rules on covid-19 measures will not be binding for personnel with diplomatic immunity if considered to be incompatible with the Vienna conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations (VCDR and VCCR). However, the government urges all such personnel to comply with all rules on a voluntary basis in accordance with the VCDR art. 41 and the VCCR art. 55.

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Heads of Mission accredited to Oslo the assurance of its highest consideration. 

Oslo, 30 October 2020

