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Deres ref.: Covid-19 oppdrag 236
Vår ref.: 20/43113-2
Saksbehandler: Hilde Skagestad
Dato: 17.11.2020

Svar på covid-19 oppdrag fra HOD 236 om IHR

Vedlagt finnes svar på dette oppdraget.

Svaret er oversendt til HOD per epost innen fristen i dag kl. 12.

Dette er en formell utkvittering av leveransen til HOD.

Vennlig hilsen

e.f.

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Svar på covid-19 oppdrag fra HOD 236 om IHR - frist 17.11 kl. 12

Dear EURO IHR contact point

We refer to the International Health Regulations (2005) Article 43 point 3 and to the temporary recommendation no. 10 and 11 following the October 30 meeting of the Emergency Committee meeting.

As required by Article 43 of IHR (2005) the health measures that Norway has implemented, in regards to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and with possible effects on international travel, are hereby reported. Additional information can be found in the previous update sent to the WHO on 18th March 2020.

We hereby inform the WHO that Norway from 9 November 2020 requires that travelers arriving in Norway must 1) show proof of a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 within the last 72 hours or risk being refused entry, and 2) spend 10 days in quarantine (see details below). There are a number of exceptions to this general rule

The public health rationale for this measure is the following: Norway has among the lowest incidences of SARS-CoV-2 in Europe, and in most parts of the country, the epidemic is under control. Arrival of infected people from abroad, especially to these parts of the country, risk sparking new outbreaks. The measures are directed at managing this risk.

The implemented health measures are put in place to support the ongoing efforts to stop the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures are also implemented to support the ongoing and broad national response efforts to stop the outbreak and to handle the effects outbreak. As a large proportion of the cases reported in Norway are still detected in travelers, the purpose of the travel restrictions is to reduce and slow down the introduction and spread of covid-19 in Norway with an aim to reduce the pressure on the health care system as seen in other countries.

The Communicable Diseases Act § 4-1 section 2, due to specific regulations, states the following:

- 1) That everyone who arrives in Norway from a country or area with high transmission rates within EU/EEA/Schengen (defined by a 14 days incidence above 25 / 100 000 new cases) OR countries outside of the EU/EEA/Schengen, must be in travel quarantine for 10 days from the day of arrival in Norway.
- 2) There are certain exemptions to the quarantine regulations, and the most important are for work related travel. Employees and contractors with frequent border crossings from Sweden or Finland, or as part of their job (airline crew, train crew, long-distance transport driver, seafarers), can be exempted from quarantine duty if they are tested once every 7 days (§6b). Since the summer there has also been an exemption for cross-border workers from EEA or Switzerland who can work after they have tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 after arrival in Norway and they must be retested during the quarantine period (§6c). There is also an exemption for key workers in critical functions to society and for people invited by Norway because of foreign policy, as well as people who cross Norway's borders in connection with planned or stipulated visits between parent and child, or shared residence for children.

Hdir 17.11.2020

As per 5th of November the regulation was further restricted. This was based on several cases and outbreaks in many parts of the country linked to travellers coming from high-transmission areas within the EU.

- 1) **Negative covid-19 test required.** Anyone arriving in Norway from a red area / country must present documentation of a negative test for corona upon arrival in Norway. The test must be taken less than 72 hours before entry. If a negative test result is not presented, the person may be denied entry. There are several derogations to this restriction, including for Norwegians, persons resident in Norway and persons in transit.
- 2) **Restricting the use of the exemption for workers (§6c).** Workers who, during the last 10 days before arriving in Norway, have resided in areas with a particularly high level of transmission (which EU recommends being called red areas and where the 14-day notification rate is 50 cases per 100 000 or higher and the test positivity rate is 4% or higher or if the 14-day notification rate is higher than 150 cases per 100 000), can no longer use the exemption from entry quarantine in the COVID-19 regulations § 6 c. Employees who can make use of the exception in § 6 c, must undergo testing every three days and stay in a suitable place of accommodation - i.e. in separate and individual rooms – during their first ten days in Norway.
- 3) **Introducing mandatory quarantine hotels.** Anyone arriving in Norway must have a permanent place to stay. Alternatively, the employer or contractor must provide guarantee for a suitable accommodation upon arrival. Persons, including tourists and visitors, without a permanent place to stay or who do not have an employer or contractor in Norway must stay in a quarantine hotel and undergo testing throughout the quarantine duty period. This also applies to persons who arrive in Norway in order to visit their family members or relatives.

The treatment of travelers is in full compliance with Article 32. Travelers who develop symptoms indicative of COVID-19 receive, if they want, appropriate medical examination and treatment free of charge.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is maintaining its global advice against all non-essential travel to all countries. This advice currently applies until 15 January 2021.

Information is updated here

<https://www.helsenorge.no/en/coronavirus/>

Please contact us if you need further information or clarification.

For the IHR National focal point