



**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 the announcement yesterday from the Government of Norway concerning new measures to combat Covid-19, as well as the announcement today from the Oslo City Council. Norway stands at the beginning of the second wave of infection.

The Government urges everyone to stay at home and have as little social contact as possible.

There has been a significant increase in the spread of infection in recent weeks. At the beginning of August, there were 300 new infections per week. The number of cases has jumped significantly since then, and in the last week of October, 3,000 new infections were registered. In the last three weeks, Norway has seen more than 6,000 new infections. The curve is becoming steeper with each week.

The virus is spreading rapidly and all counties now have outbreaks of infection. The Government is therefore introducing new national infection control measures. The Government communication dated 5 November 2020, <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/stay-at-home-have-as-little-social-contact-as-possible/id2783763/>, lists key recommendations and advice, including national recommendations, national regulations and local measures in regions with widespread infection.

Heads of Mission
accredited to Oslo

New national regulations will be published within the coming days. These will include further restrictions on private gatherings and events, as well as nightlife. New requirements will also be introduced, applicable from Monday 9 November, for persons arriving in Norway from areas and countries not exempted from quarantine upon arrival by virtue of annex A to the Covid-19 regulation. Such persons will have to present a certificate of a negative Covid-19 test upon arrival. Furthermore the regulations will include provisions regarding mandatory quarantine hotels for persons who do not have residence in Norway or a suitable place of residence provided by an employer or client in Norway. Persons accredited to foreign missions in Norway will be exempted from these requirements. Details regarding these requirements and the exceptions therefrom may be found by consulting the regulations as they become available.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received several enquiries from Heads of Mission accredited to Oslo as to the interpretation and implementation of the new regulations. It is expected that all the new regulations related to testing and place of quarantine will be adopted no later than Sunday 8 November and published immediately thereafter on www.lovdato.no. These regulations may be subject to further changes in the coming weeks.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide further information and references once the new regulations have been introduced. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs furthermore intends to arrange a digital webinar concerning the new regulations and recommendations for the Heads of Mission accredited to Oslo.

Oslo City Council has today decided to introduce a social closure of Oslo.

The City Council communication dated 6 November 2020, <https://www.oslo.kommune.no/politikk/byradet/pressemeldinger/6-november-byradet-innforer-sosial-nedstenging-av-oslo> (in Norwegian, translation to English will be published shortly) introduces new measures applicable from Monday 9 November at 24:00.

These are the measures that will be introduced in Oslo:

- All social gatherings outside private homes are prohibited.
- All leisure activities for adults are closed.
- All businesses where cultural and leisure activities take place are closed, with the exception of the library.
- Ban on alcohol serving in Oslo. Restaurants can stay open without serving alcohol.
- A red level will be introduced with reinforced infection control measures and smaller groups in upper secondary school, and a red level is considered to be introduced in upper secondary school in the coming weeks.
- Children's and youth sports can continue to arrange training, but not participate in cups and tournaments, not even out of town.
- Face masks are required in taxis in the same way as in the rest of public transport.
- Stores, shopping centers and the like must ensure that customers can keep two meters social distancing, and provide the necessary security.

The only indoor social activity allowed in Oslo is gatherings in private homes. At such gatherings, there can be up to ten people if the infection control rules

are complied with. Weddings, confirmations and other family gatherings where there are more than ten people are not allowed in the coming period.

The diplomats accredited to Norway and their family members are strongly urged to comply with the new regulations and recommendations, both on the national and the local level, as well as other regulations.

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, 6 November 2020

