



**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 of 5 November from the Government of Norway concerning new measures to combat Covid-19 and the circular note of 6 November regarding these measures.

Among the new measures are both a requirement for a certificate showing a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 upon entry into Norway and obligation to carry out the quarantine at quarantine hotels.

This circular note will provide a summary of the rules to consider when entering Norway, with particular emphasis on the new measures:

Access to entry pursuant to the Entry Act or the Entry Regulations

Pursuant to section 2 of the *Interim Act relating to entry restrictions for foreign nationals out of concern for public health* (the Entry Act) a foreigner is only entitled to enter the country if covered by one of the exceptions in the Entry Act or the *Regulations relating to entry restrictions for foreign nationals out of concern for public health* (the Entry Regulations).

Exceptions include i.a. members of diplomatic missions and family members forming part of their household, also including non-resident diplomats and diplomatic couriers, cf. the Entry Regulations, section 3, letter f, and foreigners with a family relation to a person resident in Norway, cf. letter q.

Requirement for a certificate showing a negative test for SARS-CoV-2

Everyone who arrives in Norway from an area with a quarantine obligation as stipulated in Annex A of the Covid-19 Regulations must submit a certificate showing a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 in order to enter into Norway.

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Approved test methods are PCR or antigen rapid test. The test must have been taken no later than 72 hours prior to arrival in Norway. The certificate must be in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, English, French or German.

Exemptions from the obligation submit a certificate showing a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 are listed in section 4a, second paragraph, of the Covid-19 Regulations. This include i.a.:

- foreign nationals who are essential for maintaining safe operations of critical functions in society or the fundamental needs of the Norwegian population, and there is a danger to life and health if entry is refused
- foreign nationals who are in transit
- foreign nationals who regularly arrive in Norway from Sweden or Finland to work or study, except for health personnel who have been outside Norway for more than seven days
- asylum seekers and quota refugees
- foreign nationals with a family immigration permit
- members of diplomatic missions and family members forming part of their household, also including non-resident diplomats and diplomatic couriers
- foreign nationals who have been invited by Norwegian authorities to participate in international negotiations and similar, and foreign nationals who are part of delegations that are visiting Norway in accordance with Norway's international obligations
- military personnel arriving in Norway by non-commercial transport

Requirements for entry quarantine

According to the Covid-19 Regulations § 4, letter a, everyone who arrives in Norway from an area with a quarantine obligation as stipulated in Annex A, must be in quarantine for 10 days.

There are several exceptions from the quarantine obligation set out in §6a - § 6e of the Covid-19 Regulations, of which some allow for a complete exemption from

the quarantine obligation, while others allow for partial exemption from the quarantine obligation, i.e. during working hours.

Persons who are exempt from quarantine only during work must meet the usual requirements for entry quarantine, including quarantine hotels, in their free time.

Persons who are exempt from quarantine must as far as possible avoid close contact with persons other than those with whom they live.

The existing exemptions from the entry quarantine in the Covid-19 Regulations §§ 6 a to 6 f have not been amended.

Those who are in entry quarantine may leave Norway before the quarantine period has been completed.

Requirements for quarantine hotels in the case of entry quarantine

Those who are obliged to carry out the entry quarantine (because they are not covered by any of the exceptions) must, in accordance with section 5 of the Covid-19 Regulations, carry out the quarantine at designated quarantine hotels. This also applies to those who are partially exempt from entry quarantine.

Several exemptions have been granted from the requirement to carry out the quarantine at quarantine hotels, ref § 5, second paragraph, letter a.-c. This includes i.a.:

- members of diplomatic missions and family members forming part of their household, who «reside [...] in Norway». (It follows from circular G-25/2020 on quarantine hotels, point 2, letter a., third paragraph that foreign diplomats etc. and accompanying family member are considered a resident of Norway.)
- diplomats who are not resident in Norway, i.e. diplomats entering Norway to take up their post, non-resident diplomats accredited to Norway and diplomatic couriers, are exempt from the requirement to

carry out quarantine at quarantine hotels in accordance with the exception in section 5, second paragraph, letter b of the regulations. (This is specifically stated in circular G-25/2020 on quarantine hotels, point 2, letter c., third paragraph, and only the presentation of a diplomatic passport is required here.) In this case, the Mission must provide a suitable place of residence for the carrying out of the quarantine period.

- employees or contractors who can document that the employer or client has provided a suitable place to stay with a private room for the carrying-out of the quarantine.

The municipality shall offer persons in quarantine hotels the opportunity to test for SARS-CoV-2, but testing does not mean that the quarantine period of 10 days is shortened.

The Ministry of Justice may stipulate requirements for the implementation of the stay and that the costs of quarantine hotels shall be partly covered by the employer or the individual.

Persons who are completely exempt from the requirements for entry quarantine, such as visits and invited delegations, are also exempt from the rules on quarantine hotels.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will arrange a digital webinar on Monday 16 November concerning the new regulations and recommendations for the Heads of Mission accredited to Oslo.

Further information from the Government of Norway regarding the covid-19 situation and regulations can be found on the following webpages:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/koronavirus-covid-19/id2692388/>

https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/about_mfa/diplomatic_relations/covid_19_notes/id2693823/

The diplomats and consular personnel accredited to Norway and their accompanying 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. *EB*

Oslo, 12 November 2020

