



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 latest announcements from the Government of Norway concerning new measures to combat Covid-19, as well as the Ministry's circular notes of 6 and 12 November, and 14 December 2020, regarding these measures.

Among the new measures are mandatory testing for travellers to Norway, mandatory registration of arrival to Norway, changes in the quarantine regulations, as well as several new recommendations in order to avoid a new wave of Covid-19 cases.

This circular note will provide a summary of the new regulations and recommendations.

Diplomats and consular personnel accredited to Norway and their accompanying family members are strongly urged to comply with current regulations and recommendations, both at the national and local level.

**Mandatory testing for travellers to Norway**

From 2 January 2021, the Government has imposed mandatory testing for Covid-19 of all travellers to Norway arriving from an area listed in Annex A of the Covid-19 Regulations. The test must be done as soon as possible upon arrival, and at the latest within 24 hours upon arrival. Travellers must enter Norway through border stations with testing facilities or through border stations with police control. As a main rule, testing shall be done at border stations. Several smaller border stations will be closed. Below, please find a list of open border crossings as per 2 January 2020:

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<https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/departementene/hod/open-border-crossings-per-02.01.21.pdf>

Testing capacity at border crossings will be increased, and there will be related restrictions when crossing the border. In case testing is not provided at the border station, the traveller should contact the local municipality or another test station to arrange for testing. Testing is free of charge unless performed at private health facilities.

These measures will be assessed again in 4 weeks. A violation of the obligation to be Covid-19 tested can be punished with fines.

Some groups are exempt from the testing requirement. These are inter alia children under the age of 12, members of diplomatic missions to Norway, as well as **family members forming part of their household, also including non-resident diplomats and diplomatic couriers**, personnel essential to maintain the proper operation of critical public functions, border commuters and long distance drivers are exempt from the testing requirement.

This new testing requirement comes in addition to the requirement that foreign nationals who otherwise are entitled to enter under the Interim Act, and who arrive in Norway from an area that gives rise to quarantine duty as stipulated in appendix A of the Covid-19 Regulations, shall present certification on entry showing a negative test result for SARS-CoV-2, in accordance with section 4a of the Covid-19 Regulations. Approved test methods are PCR testing or antigen rapid testing. The certification must be in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, English, French or German. The test is to be taken within the 72 hours prior to arrival in Norway.

Several groups are exempt from this requirement, among them members of diplomatic missions to Norway, as well as **family members forming part of their household, and also non-resident diplomats and diplomatic couriers.**

### **Mandatory registration of arrival to Norway**

As from 21 December 2020, with some exemptions, travellers to Norway are required to register themselves in order to enhance infection control.

Individuals entering Norway must provide necessary information in order to ensure compliance to the quarantine regulations, the enhancement of our national precautionary measures and to contribute to our disease detection and tracking system.

Several groups are exempt from the requirement to register, among them members of diplomatic missions to Norway, as well as **family members forming part of their household, and also non-resident diplomats and diplomatic couriers.**

Travelers must be able to provide a confirmation of a suitable place to stay during the mandatory quarantine period. If exempted from quarantine (both work and leisure time), it is sufficient to register personal data and not quarantine address.

After completion of the registration, a receipt to be presented to the police at the border control will be issued.

The travel to Norway can be registered less than 72 hours prior to the time of entry.

The data is stored securely and is deleted after 20 days. Access to the data is strictly limited to the Norwegian authorities.

### **Adjustments to the entry quarantine rules**

As from 29 December 2020, travellers arriving to Norway may limit the time of the entry quarantine of ten days if they obtain a negative test result twice after arrival.

Being tested is voluntary and free of charge. If you are not tested or there is insufficient capacity to be tested, you must remain in entry quarantine for ten days.

This arrangement does not apply to travellers who have been in the United Kingdom during the last 14 days prior to arrival, and the duration of the entry quarantine may not be reduced for this group. Testing upon arrival is mandatory also for this group of travellers and additional requirements regarding the testing applies.

The option of being tested in order to end quarantine early only applies if the person is tested in accordance with the requirements in the Covid-19 Regulations.

The option of reducing the duration of entry quarantine is not an individual right and is contingent on the testing capacity of the municipality in which you are staying, unless you have the test taken at private health facilities or that your employer provides for testing. This means that in some cases a second test cannot be performed due to capacity restrictions in the municipality. Furthermore, if the second test is not taken, the person must remain in entry quarantine for ten days.

## **New nationwide recommendations**

The following recommendations has a validity of 14 days from 4 January:

- Avoid having guests at home.
- All organized activities, such as sports activities, cultural events, and religious activities are recommended to be postponed to after 18 January. However, outdoor sports activities might still be performed if social distancing can be respected.
- Avoid all non-essential travels also within Norway.
- Working from home for everyone who has the possibility to do so.

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Regulations might change in the time to come and will be published 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/covid19\\_notes/id2693823/](https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/about_mfa/diplomatic_relations/covid19_notes/id2693823/).

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. *JMA*

Oslo, 6 January 2021

