

Circular

Municipalities
County Governors
National Police Directorate

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G-06/2021 – REVISED CIRCULAR REGARDING QUARANTINE HOTELS

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security refers to the Regulations of 27 March 2020 no. 470 on infection control measures etc. in connection with the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19 Regulations), which include regulations regarding mandatory entry quarantine and requirements for accommodation during the quarantine period. Reference is also made to the Regulations on amendments to the COVID-19 Regulations, issued on 13 December 2020 and 22 February 2021.

Due to an unstable infection situation in connection with COVID-19 in Norway and outside of Norway, the Norwegian Government imposed new measures on 18 February 2021 to reduce import infection. The situation in Europe remains extremely challenging, the pressure of infection is high in most countries, and there are concerns regarding the spread of particularly infectious mutations of the coronavirus. Because COVID-19 can unknowingly be spread by infected individuals, there is a risk of spread of infection from travellers who have been infected abroad. This applies even if they have tested negative prior to arrival, since the incubation period entails that the disease may also develop after this time. Other people's homes do not appear to be a suitable quarantine location for travellers from countries with high rates of infection, and experiences from the municipalities indicate that outbreaks of infection occur where quarantined individuals infect those with whom they are staying. Therefore, on 6 November, requirements were established regarding mandatory stays at quarantine hotels while undergoing entry quarantine, with exemptions for certain groups. The quarantine hotel scheme took effect on Monday, 9 November 2020.

In light of updated expert infection control assessments from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI) and the experiences with the scheme to date, amendments have been made to the quarantine hotel scheme in Section 5 of the COVID-19 Regulations,

which take effect on 23 February 2021. Following these amendments, the main rule will continue to be that all persons travelling to Norway have a duty to undergo a quarantine period at a quarantine hotel, though adjustments have been made regarding what groups are exempt from this duty.

It is the police, in its border control capacity, that assesses the conditions for entry to Norway and informs of the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel.

This circular describes the implementation of stays at quarantine hotels. This applies to the period from the person travels from their place of arrival to the hotel and until their quarantine period has ended.

To achieve the desired infection control effect of the measure and to succeed in the establishment and operation of quarantine hotels, cooperation between various public and private actors is essential. As there are very many border crossing points in Norway over a large geographical area, the municipalities are best suited to assume the main responsibility for management. Therefore, most tasks associated with the quarantine hotel scheme are delegated to the municipalities. This applies to establishment, operation, cooperation between various actors and communication with the population. By virtue of their general coordinating role and via the chief county medical officer, county governors are responsible for following up municipalities with quarantine hotels regarding these efforts.

The duty to stay at a quarantine hotel is stipulated in Section 5 of the COVID-19 Regulations. In principle, individual travellers must personally assess whether or not they are covered by any of the exemptions from the duty to undergo quarantine at a quarantine hotel.

The task of the police at the border is to inform of the regulatory framework and to guide travellers. If a traveller presents documentation showing that the person in question is exempt from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel, the police shall inspect such documentation.

2. Duty to stay at a quarantine hotel

The introduction of a duty to stay at a quarantine hotel does not entail any changes regarding who is subject to entry quarantine. This is regulated by other provisions in the COVID-19 Regulations, chapters 2 and 3. The quarantine period continues to be ten days from arrival but may be shortened if the person in question can document a negative test result by PCR test, which is, at the earliest, taken seven days after arrival, cf. Section 4c of the COVID-19 Regulations. The rules regarding where to stay during the quarantine period have been tightened. The main rule is that all persons subject to entry quarantine shall undergo quarantine at a quarantine hotel. Persons undergoing entry quarantine are required to stay at a quarantine hotel at the initial place of entry to the realm during their quarantine period. This main rule also applies to Norwegian citizens.

Certain groups of individuals are exempt from the duty to undergo quarantine at a quarantine hotel. This duty does not apply to the following seven groups, which are described in more detail below. Common to all these groups is that they must satisfy the requirements established for testing at the border crossing point in Section 4d of the COVID-19 Regulations in order to be covered by the exemptions from staying at a

quarantine hotel during the quarantine period. The groups that are exempt from staying at a quarantine hotel, subject to detailed conditions, are as follows:

- a. Persons who, upon arrival, are able to document that they reside in Norway, and who will be staying at the dwelling or at another suitable accommodation
- b. Persons who, upon arrival, are able to document that they are married to or have children of the relationship with a person residing in Norway, and who will be undergoing their entry quarantine in the dwelling of their spouse or the other parent. This exemption also applies to minor children of persons mentioned in the first sentence
- c. Persons who, upon arrival, can document that they own or rent a fixed residential address in Norway where they can undergo quarantine in a suitable housing unit with a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. The tenancy agreement must have a duration of at least six months in order for the rental property to be considered a fixed residential address.
- d. Persons who arrive in Norway to perform work or assignments and who, upon arrival, are able to document that their employer or contracting authority is providing a suitable accommodation that is approved by the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority pursuant to Chapter 2 A, where it is possible to avoid close contact with other people, with a private bedroom including TV and internet access, separate bathroom and a separate kitchen or food service
- e. Persons who can document compelling welfare considerations, and who have a suitable accommodation where it is possible to avoid close contact with other people, with a private bedroom including TV and internet access, separate bathroom and a separate kitchen or food service, and who, upon arrival, can present a confirmation that the accommodation meets these conditions, issued by the party providing the accommodation
- f. Persons who are applying for asylum or who are resettlement refugees
- g. Persons who are able to document that they are exempt pursuant to sections 6b, sixth paragraph, 6h, second paragraph or 6i.

It is stressed that exemptions from the duty to quarantine at a quarantine hotel do not entail exemptions from entry quarantine. Persons undergoing entry quarantine may only go outside of the quarantine location if they are able to avoid close contact with persons other than those with whom they are staying. Persons undergoing quarantine are not permitted to be at a workplace where other people are staying, at a school, or a day-care facility, see Section 5, fourth paragraph of the COVID-19 Regulations.

Use of public transport is prohibited, other than for transport from the place of arrival to the quarantine location, and possibly transport from the quarantine location to the place of departure, if the person in question is leaving Norway during their quarantine period.

Pursuant to the COVID-19 Regulations, certain groups are exempt, in whole or in part, from entry quarantine. This is regulated in more detail in Section 6a to 6i of the COVID-19 Regulations.

a. Exemption from the duty to quarantine at a quarantine hotel for persons residing in Norway

Persons who are able to document that they reside in Norway, and who will be staying at the dwelling in question or another suitable accommodation during their quarantine period, are exempt from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel.

Residing in Norway means persons registered in the National Population Register as residing in Norway. This can be documented e.g., by referring to information regarding registered place of residence from the Norwegian Tax Administration.

Persons in the foreign service and the members of their household are considered to be residing in Norway, irrespective of their stay abroad. The same applies to military personnel who are ordered to serve abroad.

Foreign diplomats etc. and their spouses or cohabitants and dependent children who have legal residence pursuant to sections 1-4 and 1-5 of the Immigration Regulations, cf. Section 5, third paragraph of the Immigration Act, are considered to be residing in Norway.

Persons studying abroad who were residing in Norway prior to their studies will often continue to be registered in the National Population Register during their studies. If so, they are also considered to be *residing* in Norway pursuant to the COVID-19 Regulations. Students in other Nordic countries shall also be considered to be residing in Norway pursuant to the quarantine rules, even though they are registered with an address in the country of studies, because of special Nordic rules regarding registration in population registers. Therefore, they are not required to stay at a quarantine hotel and may complete their quarantine at another suitable accommodation. They must comply with the quarantine rules during the first ten days upon arriving in Norway. During their quarantine period, they should therefore avoid close contact with other people with whom they share a dwelling.

b. Exemption from the duty to quarantine at a quarantine hotel for spouses and children of persons residing in Norway

Persons who, upon arrival, are able to document that they are married to or have children of the relationship with a person residing in Norway, may undergo entry quarantine in the dwelling of their spouse or the other parent, even if they are not travelling together to Norway. The same applies to minor children. Both children of the relationship and children of previous relationships are covered by this exemption.

Here, *residing* means persons who are registered in the Norwegian National Population Register and shall be interpreted in the same manner as explained in point a, above.

This exemption will typically cover families who reside in multiple countries because of work, studies, health problems or similar, but who commute between their places of residence.

In order to document that the person in question is covered by the exemption, reference can be made to a marriage certificate or birth certificate, as well as documentation showing that the spouse or the other parents resides in Norway, cf. point a.

c. Exemption from the duty to quarantine at a quarantine hotel for persons with a fixed residential address in Norway

Persons who, upon arrival, can document that they own or rent a fixed residential address in Norway, may undergo entry quarantine in the dwelling if it constitutes a suitable housing unit with a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. Pursuant to this exemption, it is prohibited for multiple individuals to share a dwelling, even if, in principle, multiple individuals have rented a dwelling, jointly. Spouses, cohabitants and children of their relationship will, however, be permitted to quarantine together in such a dwelling, provided they live together in their home country and have travelled together to Norway, cf. Section 5, third paragraph.

Fixed residential address means persons who have their fixed home in Norway. In order for a rented dwelling to be considered a *fixed residential address* it is a requirement that the tenancy agreement has a duration of at least six months. Holiday homes are not considered a *fixed residential address*, since such dwellings are generally not a person's fixed home.

Ownership or tenancy must be documented upon arrival. This can be documented e.g., by tax information, information regarding payment of fees etc. or information from the Land Register, showing that the person has ownership of the dwelling. The latter option can e.g., be downloaded from the Norwegian Mapping Authority's website by logging into Altinn. See more detailed information <https://seeiendom.kartverket.no/>. In order to document a tenancy, reference can be made to a tenancy agreement that has a duration of at least 6 months.

d. Exemption from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel for employees and contractors

Persons who travel to Norway for the purpose of performing work or assignments, without establishing themselves with a fixed residential address in Norway, are only exempt from staying at a quarantine hotel if the employer's quarantine facilities are approved by the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority prior to arrival, cf. Chapter 2A of the COVID-19 Regulations. It is a requirement that the employee or contractor has their own bedroom, a separate bathroom and a separate kitchen to prepare food or food service. Furthermore, the person must have access to both TV and internet in the room, and it must be possible to avoid close contact with other people.

This entails that all persons travelling to Norway for the purpose of performing work or assignments, must be able to present documentation that their employer or contracting authority has provided them with an approved accommodation. A copy of the approval decision from the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority may serve as documentation. If the employee or contractor is unable to present such documentation, the person in question is required to stay at a quarantine hotel, provided none of the other exemptions in Section 5, second paragraph are applicable. This applies even if the

processing of the employer's or contracting authority's application for approval has not been completed by the planned time of arrival.

e. Exemption from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel for persons who can document compelling welfare considerations

Persons who can document the existence of compelling welfare considerations, and who have a suitable accommodation where it is possible to avoid close contact with other people, with a private bedroom, separate bathroom and a separate kitchen or food service, are exempt from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel if they can present a confirmation that the accommodation meets these conditions issued by the party providing the accommodation.

This provision is only intended as a narrow exemption from the rule and only applies to very specific situations. Section 2, second paragraph of the Interim Act relating to entry restrictions contains a largely equivalent provision that provides a basis for applying for entry if special reasons so indicate, such as specific care responsibilities for persons in Norway or other compelling welfare considerations. In the Revised circular relating to entry into force of the Regulations relating to entry restrictions for foreign nationals out of concern for public health (G-04/2021), the following examples are provided of situations where the exemption may be relevant:

- Minor children and foster children of Norwegian or foreign nationals who reside or work in Norway.
- Foreign nationals who have a special care responsibility for persons who reside in Norway, including minor children or foster children or others with special care needs.
- Foreign nationals who, due to compelling welfare considerations, need to enter Norway, and the visit cannot wait; e.g., a foreign national seeking to visit a dying or seriously ill close family member in Norway.

Furthermore, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) has provided the following examples in its guidelines to the provision:

- Persons seeking to attend the birth of their own child.
- Close family members of a seriously ill or dying person.
- Close family member of a person who is to be buried.

The provision in Section 5, second paragraph (e) of the COVID-19 Regulations will also cover foreign nationals travelling to Norway to visit their children, cf. Section 6d, first paragraph. Previously, this group was exempt from entry quarantine both during working hours and leisure time, and thereby exempt from the quarantine hotel rules in Section 5. However, following a regulatory amendment, this exemption now only applies during work and school hours.

The same examples provide guidance as to when a Norwegian citizen may be granted an exemption from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel pursuant to the provision. In addition to the mentioned examples, the condition of *compelling welfare considerations* may also be met if the person travelling has a disease or disorder that requires special follow-up and facilities that the quarantine hotel is unable to offer.

Foreign nationals who are granted right of entry pursuant to the Interim Act relating to entry restrictions, Section 2, second paragraph, may document that they are covered by this exemption by presenting the decision regarding right of entry. Norwegian nationals who have a right of entry regardless, and who, therefore, have not received such a decision, must document that the condition is met by way of self-certification.

Both Norwegian citizens and foreign nationals must, upon arrival, be able to present a confirmation that the accommodation has a private room, separate bathroom, separate kitchen or food service and that it is possible to avoid close contact with other people. Such a confirmation may be provided by way of a completed confirmation form, or equivalent written confirmation from the party that is providing the accommodation. For travellers who will be staying at an ordinary hotel (not a quarantine hotel) during their quarantine period, the hotel must provide such a confirmation. This confirmation is considered sufficient documentation that the person has another suitable accommodation.

f. Exemption from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel for asylum seekers and resettlement refugees

Asylum seekers and resettlement refugees are exempt from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel. These groups are required to undergo their quarantine period at another suitable location arranged by the authorities.

g. Exemption from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel for professional drivers, persons arriving in Norway to commence work on board vessels in Norwegian ports, and military personnel.

Professional drivers involved in long-haul transport and train personnel who do not work on freight trains and who arrive in Norway from areas subject to mandatory quarantine, are exempt from the duty to quarantine during working hours but must observe entry quarantine during leisure time, cf. Section 6b, sixth paragraph. This group is exempt from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel during leisure time if they are able to undergo quarantine in a private room in the vehicle or train, and this is suitable for overnight accommodation.

Persons arriving in Norway to commence work on board vessels in Norwegian ports are exempt from the duty to quarantine during working hours following two negative tests for SARS-CoV-2 taken after arrival in Norway, cf. Section 6h, second paragraph. This group is exempt from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel during leisure time if they are able to undergo quarantine in a private cabin on board the vessel.

Foreign military branches arriving in Norway for training, exercises or operations approved by the Ministry of Defence may undergo quarantine in a garrison, military camp, tent camp, in the field or similar, cf. Section 6i. The quarantine scheme must be

approved by the Norwegian Armed Forces Joint Medical Services. Such persons will then be exempt from the duty to stay at a quarantine hotel during their quarantine period.

h. Special rules regarding families travelling together to Norway

Spouses, cohabitants and their children of the relationship may stay in the same location during their quarantine period, without a requirement of a private room, if they are travelling together to Norway and live together in their home country. They will also be able to use the same bathroom and kitchen. This only applies to travellers who are subject to the requirement of a private room pursuant to Section 5 (c), (d) and (e).

Persons who live together in their home country and are travelling together to Norway, but who do not have family ties as specified above, will not be exempt from the requirement of a private room, separate bathroom and separate kitchen or food service.

In order to document the family relationship, reference can be made to a wedding certificate or birth certificate, as well as tenancy agreement from their home country or tax information, information regarding payment of fees etc. or information from the Land Register showing that the spouse or other parent rent a dwelling jointly in their home country.

i. Special rules regarding minor children

Minor children travelling alone, and who are not covered by the exemptions in Section 5, second paragraph or Section 6d, first paragraph, shall have the option of having caregivers present at the quarantine hotel. This will likely only be relevant in exceptional cases. Most situations where children are travelling alone to Norway will be covered by one of the exemptions.

j. Special rules regarding Svalbard and Jan Mayen

The rules regarding quarantine hotels also apply to persons travelling to Svalbard and Jan Mayen. Pursuant to Section 9, first paragraph of the COVID-19 Regulations, persons undergoing entry quarantine are prohibited from travelling onward to Svalbard or Jan Mayen before the end of their quarantine period. Persons who reside in Svalbard and who are not covered by any of the exemptions in Section 5, second paragraph, are required to stay at a quarantine hotel. Persons travelling to Svalbard to perform work or assignments, will be permitted to undergo quarantine at an accommodation provided by the employer or contracting authority on the mainland, provided the accommodation is approved by the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, cf. Section 5, second paragraph (d).

3. General information regarding roles and responsibilities

What municipalities are to offer quarantine hotels has been clarified in agreements with the relevant municipalities and county governors. The county governors are responsible for entering into agreements with a sufficient number of municipalities. The municipalities should be selected based on the size and robustness of the municipalities,

that they have suitable hotels, their geographical location and the municipality's access to health and care services.

The municipality's responsibility for persons who will be staying at quarantine hotels takes effect once the person who will be staying at a quarantine hotel has cleared border control.

The municipality shall establish a separate contact point for the quarantine hotel scheme. The municipality shall ensure that persons staying in the municipality are offered necessary health and care services, cf. the Health Care Act and the Health Preparedness Act. In accordance with the Regulations on municipal preparedness duty, the municipality has a basic responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the population. *Population* means all persons staying in the municipality at any given time.

4. Details regarding undergoing quarantine at a quarantine hotel

a. Stays at quarantine hotels

Persons undergoing entry quarantine are required to stay at a quarantine hotel at the initial place of entry to the realm during their quarantine period. If there is no capacity at the quarantine hotels at the place of arrival, the police at border control will communicate contact information to the municipality's representative, who will refer to a quarantine hotel with capacity. It is stressed that the requirements for persons undergoing entry quarantine continue to apply, including during the journey to the quarantine hotel. This means, among other things, that travel by public transport is not permitted outside of the journey from the place of arrival to the quarantine hotel, and that all persons over 12 years of age must wear a face mask during this journey. Persons travelling to a quarantine hotel must avoid close contact with persons other than those with whom they are quarantining.

b. The role of the police at border control

For travellers arriving by land and sea, the police is responsible for providing information regarding quarantine hotels at the place of arrival. The police shall notify the municipality's contact point regarding new travellers who will be staying at a quarantine hotel.

For travellers who arrive by air, the municipality is responsible for receiving travellers following border control. However, the police may, as a result of local conditions, in whole or in part assume this role, upon more detailed agreement between the municipality and the police. At the border control, the police shall convey to the traveller how they can establish contact with the municipality's representative.

c. After individuals have cleared border control

The municipality that has quarantine hotels should enter into a cooperation with the relevant police district to contribute to keeping the municipality up to date regarding arrivals from abroad where quarantine hotels may be relevant. This will ensure good exchange of information and coordination. The municipality will also ensure that the police has information available regarding the quarantine scheme, generally, and regarding the relevant municipality's services, specifically. This also applies to the transport arrangement to the quarantine hotel.

In circumstances where it is assessed that the traveller is required to stay at a quarantine hotel, information shall be provided. Suitable information materials shall be prepared for this purpose and distributed to the traveller. The information shall clarify the traveller's rights and duties. This information should be available on the municipality's website and shall be translated into relevant languages.

d. Transport

The municipality responsible for the quarantine hotel is responsible for facilitating transport from the place of arrival to the quarantine hotel. The general rules for quarantine in the COVID-19 Regulations apply. This entails that persons arriving by own vehicle may drive themselves to the quarantine hotel. It may also be relevant to use taxicab, public transport and special arrangements organised by the municipality, e.g., busses. Travel by public transport is prohibited except for the journey from the place of arrival and to the quarantine hotel, and possibly from the quarantine location to the place of departure, if the person in question is exiting Norway during their quarantine period, cf. the COVID-19 Regulations, Section 5, fourth paragraph, last sentence and fifth paragraph.

In case of larger groups and where it is practically feasible, the municipality should organise separate transport to the quarantine hotel in order to safeguard infection control considerations and minimise the risk for other passengers on normal public transport.

Persons over 12 years of age are required to use a face mask in connection with the transport, cf. the COVID-19 Regulations, Section 5, fifth paragraph, last sentence. Reference is made to [the infection control guidelines for public transport](#) and recommendations for transport of [passengers with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19](#).

It should be considered whether there is a need to offer suitable waiting areas for travellers, who need to wait a long time for transport to a quarantine hotel. A face mask should be worn. The municipality facilitates for the availability of face masks for distribution upon border crossing.

In case of transport with own vehicle, the municipality should ensure that all persons who will be staying at the quarantine hotel arrive at the hotel. To ensure this, good information exchange should be established between the police and the municipality's contact point for the quarantine scheme. The quarantine provisions apply during such journeys.

e. Reception at quarantine hotel

Municipalities with quarantine hotels must ensure that the hotels have an overview of persons staying at the hotel who are undergoing entry quarantine. In practice, this is done by registering individuals in the hotel's systems upon arrival. The municipality should provide personnel who ensure reception and communication of information regarding rights and duties to the traveller upon arrival at the quarantine hotel. The information provided should ensure that the rules for the quarantine, testing scheme, access to interpreter services, government information and the hotel's arrangements are included. Information regarding routines in case of a need for healthcare should also be

included in this information. Persons undergoing entry quarantine are required to avoid close contact with persons other than those with whom they are staying during their quarantine. It is stressed that close contact with other people undergoing entry quarantine at the same hotel must be avoided.

The municipality should in cooperation with the quarantine hotel prepare arrangements for the hotel quarantine. The municipality should also ensure that a contact person is available at all times for those staying at the quarantine hotel.

Specific information regarding the hotel: The health authorities establish requirements for hygiene and infection control measures at the hotels. Each municipality with quarantine hotels should enter into agreements with the quarantine hotels which stipulate the general infection control requirements and regulate the practical implementation thereof. At the same time, it must be assessed whether local conditions indicate a need for additional infection control requirements in the agreement. It is important to prevent residents and employees at the quarantine hotel from being exposed to an increased risk of infection during the stay. Possible supplementary, local infection control measures must be reflected in the information provided to the person who will be quarantining.

Enterprises that have employees staying at the quarantine hotel are encouraged to establish contact with the quarantine hotel.

f. Provisions at quarantine hotels

Some of the measures that may affect the stay are restrictions regarding socialising and food service. The hotel's routines must, among other things, safeguard infection control rules for persons quarantining and the health authorities' standards for food service and cleaning.

g. Testing

The municipality shall offer persons staying at the quarantine hotel the option of being tested for SARS-CoV-2, cf. Section 5, sixth paragraph of the COVID-19 Regulations. If the person in question can document a negative test result during their quarantine period by PCR test, which is, at the earliest, taken seven days after arrival, the quarantine period will be shortened, cf. Section 4c. of the COVID-19 Regulations.

Persons who develop acute respiratory infection with fever, cough or shortness of breath during the quarantine period shall contact the health and care services to be tested and to receive healthcare. Information regarding testing shall be provided to persons who will be quarantining upon arrival at the quarantine hotel.

Regular testing during the quarantine period will contribute to the detection of infection, so that infected persons can be isolated. The district medical officer is responsible for establishing systems for testing and defining suitable facilities. Healthcare personnel are responsible for performing testing. In all handling of persons with a confirmed case of COVID-19, personnel shall use protective equipment in accordance with the Recommendation to the primary healthcare services;

<https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/coronavirus/helsepersonell/tiltak-i-primarhelsetjenesten-ved-mistenkt-eller-bekreftet-smitte-med-nytt-/?term=&h=1>.

h. Monitoring of compliance at quarantine hotels

The municipalities must, in collaboration with the hotel, establish a monitoring system whereby dedicated individuals monitor that persons undergoing quarantine are observing the guidelines that have been issued. The municipalities shall, based on the hotel's overview of persons undergoing entry quarantine, be able to monitor that they are staying at the hotel. If breaches of the duty to quarantine are detected, the police shall be contacted, who will consider possible criminal prosecution.

The quarantine hotel must be staffed 24 hours a day and have the contact information of everyone staying there.

i. Stays

Going outside of the accommodation is permitted, as long as close contact with persons other than those with whom one is staying during the quarantine is avoided. During the quarantine period, the person quarantining is not permitted to be at a workplace where other people are staying, or at a school or day-care facility. Use of public transport is prohibited (Section 5 of the COVID-19 Regulations).

j. Breaches of the duty to quarantine

In case of observed breaches of the duty to quarantine, the police shall be contacted, who will consider possible criminal prosecution and/or expulsion of foreign nationals.

Use of force is not permitted in the implementation of the quarantine hotel scheme. However, intentional or grossly negligent breaches of provisions in the COVID-19 Regulations are punishable by fines or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, cf. Section 24 of the Regulations.

k. After the end of the quarantine period

Upon completion of quarantine, the traveller may leave the quarantine hotel. Upon leaving, the traveller should be given relevant information regarding infection control rules in Norway, generally, financial matters and the contact point for the municipality, in case symptoms of COVID-19 occur. If persons wish to return to their place of origin prior to the end of their quarantine period, they must notify the municipality and arrange the journey themselves. The municipality will arrange transport back to the airport/border crossing point.

5. Costs relating to the quarantine hotel scheme

The municipalities with quarantine hotels cover the costs of the quarantine hotel scheme. The municipalities' expenses are covered by the state via a reimbursement scheme. The municipalities shall ensure that the use of resources relating to the scheme is as efficient as possible and in accordance with the purpose of the scheme. The municipalities' entry into agreements with suppliers must be adjustable on short notice as a result of changes to the Government's measures against COVID-19.

A user fee has been established for individuals who use the hotel. The user fee for employers or contracting authorities and private individuals over 18 years of age is NOK 500 per day. Children under 10 years of age are exempt from the user fee requirement when staying in the same room as their parents or guardians. Children aged 10 up to and including 18 years of age

shall be charged half the user fee, i.e., NOK 250 per day.

The hotels send invoices to the municipalities for reimbursement of costs incurred. It is the hotels that receive payment for the user fees from each individual person who is covered by the quarantine hotel scheme. The time of settlement of the user fee may vary between payment upon arrival, reservation of amount upon arrival or payment upon checkout.

6. Use of the Norwegian Civil Defence as an emergency resource

The Norwegian Civil Defence is the state's emergency resource and shall provide support for public safety agencies in case of unwanted events. The use of conscripts is regulated in the Act relating to municipal emergency preparedness, civil protection measures and the civil defence. In order for the Norwegian Civil Defence to be used as an emergency resource, private/commercial resources must be exhausted and/or there must be an acute need for assistance.

The Norwegian Civil Defence has freedom of action in terms of its own Civil Defence employees and own materiel. The general principle for prioritisation of resources is that local and private/civilian resources should be used whenever possible, and the Norwegian Civil Defence's resources are used when other relevant resources are not available, or during an acute phase. The start-up phase of operating the quarantine hotel scheme will fall under the definition of an acute phase, but the assessment thereof is made by the individual Civil Defence district in dialogue with the party requesting assistance and possibly the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB).

In connection with the establishment and operation of the quarantine hotel scheme, the Norwegian Civil Defence may assist with the following tasks:

- Information and guidance
- Access and exit control
- Registration
- Material support (tents, heating etc.)
- Establishment of makeshift disinfection sites

In addition to possible direct assistance, the Norwegian Civil Defence will be able to assist the municipalities and other authorities if there is a need for advice regarding logistics planning, among other things.

Sincerely,

Øistein Knudsen jr.
Director General

John Arne Gisnås

Deputy Director General

Copy: Government ministries
Norwegian Directorate of Health
Norwegian Institute of Public Health
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection
Governor of Svalbard