

# Coronavirus pandemic in the EU -

# **Fundamental Rights Implications**

**Country:** Denmark

Contractor's name: The Danish Institute for Human Rights

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## 1 Measures taken by government/public authorities

## 1.1 Emergency laws/states of emergency

Provide information on emergency laws/declarations of states of emergency, including actions taken by police to enforce them and court rulings concerning the legality of such measures. Please include in particular information on developments relating to the protection of the right of association/demonstration; for example, with respect to the public gatherings that took place concerning the death of George Floyd, or other such events.

As previously reported, the national state of emergency has gradually relaxed and most of the emergency measures have either been loosened or repealed. There have been no court rulings concerning the legality of the measures.

A large demonstration organized by the Black Lives Matter movement protesting the murder of George Floyd took place on 7 June 2020. According to tele-data, approximately 22.400 people attended the demonstration.<sup>1</sup> Demonstrations are excepted from the ban on assemblies of more than 50 people.

After the demonstration, protesters were urged by the authorities to get tested for COVID-19.<sup>2</sup> On 22 June 2020 four protesters had been tested positive for COVID-19. According to virologists, this number indicates that there was no so-called 'super-spreader' at the demonstration.<sup>3</sup>

## 1.2 Measures affecting the general population

### 1.2.1 Social distancing

Focus on:

- Lifting of stay at home restrictions, and measures/rules for general physical distancing when in public or at home.
- Enforcement and penalties.

As part of a plan for gradually lifting the general assembly ban, the assembly ban was raised from 10 people to 50 people on 8 June 2020.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Laurits Hjortkjær Henningsen & Jens Valbjørn Stavnsbjerg, 'Ny optælling: Der var mange flere end 15.000 ved Black Lives Matter-demonstrationen' *Politiken* (18 June 2020), available in Danish here: <a href="https://politiken.dk/indland/art7828439/Der-var-mange-flere-end-15.000-ved-Black-Lives-Matter-demonstrationen">https://politiken.dk/indland/art7828439/Der-var-mange-flere-end-15.000-ved-Black-Lives-Matter-demonstrationen</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Line Tofte, Thomas Buhl & Anna Sol Jørgensen, 'Politikere til 15.000 demonstranter: Bliv testet for corona' *Politiken* (8 June 2020), available in Danish here: <a href="https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/politik/politikere-til-15000-demonstranter-bliv-testet-corona">https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/politik/politikere-til-15000-demonstranter-bliv-testet-corona</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ritzau, 'Virolog: Intet tyder på superspredning med corona ved demo' *Politiken* (22 June 2020), available in Danish here: <a href="https://politiken.dk/indland/art7833983/Virolog-Intet-tyder-på-superspredning-med-corona-ved-demo">https://politiken.dk/indland/art7833983/Virolog-Intet-tyder-på-superspredning-med-corona-ved-demo</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 'Aftale om forsamlingsforbuddet' *Justitsministeriet*, available in Danish here: <a href="https://www.justitsministeriet.dk/nyt-og-presse/pressemeddelelser/2020/aftale-om-forsamlingsforbuddet">https://www.justitsministeriet.dk/nyt-og-presse/pressemeddelelser/2020/aftale-om-forsamlingsforbuddet</a>.

On 8 June 2020, public swimming pools, amusement parks, gambling arcades and fitness centres reopened, and weddings, birthdays and other festivities held at hotels, restaurants or bars were excepted from a fixed closing time and allowed up to 500 guests.<sup>5</sup>

Music venues, nightlife clubs and festivals are still not allowed to re-open. As described in one of our previous report, fines will be issued by the police for violations.

#### 1.2.2 Education

Focus on:

- Steps to reopen educational institutions (schools, third level and kindergartens). Include any specific measures aimed at children from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Measures to protect students and staff as they return to educational institutions (e.g. related to physical distancing, shift patterns, health and hygiene, etc.).

All educational institutions for children (early childhood education and care, elementary schools, upper secondary education etc.) have, as previously reported, reopened. There have not been changes in the guidelines since the previous report.

#### 1.2.3 Work

Focus on:

- Steps for specific sectors/the general population to return to work and measures to protect employees in the workplace (physical distancing, health and hygiene, shift patterns, etc.). Please include any specific measures aimed at people in precarious work.
- Ending of furlough/short-time work programmes for specific sectors/the general population.

On 15 June 2020, all non-essential workers in the public sector were allowed to physically return to their workplace, with precautions. This includes persons working in the public sector in Region Zealand and the Capital Region of Denmark, who were not included in the reopening 27 May 2020, due to great regional differences in the incidence of COVID-19. It is still recommended that working from home will continue to be used to the extent possible as well as staggered working hours so that public transportation, staff canteens etc. will not be overcrowded.<sup>6</sup>

### 1.2.4 Access to justice

Focus on:

- Steps to lift restrictions previously imposed on court proceedings and any strategies to deal
  with case backlog or increased litigation due to COVID-19 measures (e.g. criteria to prioritise
  certain types of cases/disputes).
- Continued use of remote hearings and videoconferences within court proceedings despite the lifting of restrictions (e.g. for which proceedings).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 'Aftale om yderligere genåbning af indendørs idræts- og foreningsliv', *Kulturministeriet*, available in Danish at: https://kum.dk/fileadmin/KUM/Documents/COVID-

<sup>19</sup> DOX/Aftale om yderligere genaabning af indendoers idraets- og foreningsliv.pdf and 'Plan for en gradvis og kontrolleret lempelse af forsamlingsforbuddet', *Justitsministeriet*, available in Danish at: <a href="https://www.justitsministeriet.dk/sites/default/files/media/Pressemeddelelser/pdf/2020/etapeplan-forsamlingsforbud.pdf">https://www.justitsministeriet.dk/sites/default/files/media/Pressemeddelelser/pdf/2020/etapeplan-forsamlingsforbud.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 'Offentligt ansatte i Østdanmark tilbage på arbejde den 15. juni', *Justitsministeriet*, available in Danish at: <a href="https://www.justitsministeriet.dk/nyt-og-presse/pressemeddelelser/2020/offentligt-ansatte-i-oestdanmark-tilbage-paa-arbejde-den-15">https://www.justitsministeriet.dk/nyt-og-presse/pressemeddelelser/2020/offentligt-ansatte-i-oestdanmark-tilbage-paa-arbejde-den-15</a>.

To deal with case backlog caused by COVID-19 the Copenhagen district court has scheduled extra criminal proceedings outside normal opening hours from 4 pm to 6.30 pm.<sup>7</sup> On 4 June 2020, the Eastern High Court in Denmark announced that they are planning the appointments for civil proceedings that were postponed due to COVID-19.<sup>8</sup>

As previously reported the Danish Courts have an increased processing time because the courts have received an increasing amount of cases during the last 5 years and cases have become more complex. The shutdown caused by COVID-19 has made the situation worse. Therefore, the government has decided to give the Danish courts an extra DKK 7 million to fight the case backlog in the second half of 2020. The money will be used for temporary judge positions at the district courts and high courts, employing deputy judges, and the possibility for the other jurists at the court to take on overtime work to reduce the case backlog.<sup>9</sup>

The Danish Health Authority's (*Sundhedsstyrelsen*) guidelines about measures to ensure court cases are conducted in a safe manner are still in place. The measures include requirements such as 1-meter distance between persons, physical shielding with e.g. plexiglass, and cleaning and disinfection of affected contact points (door handles, handrails, switches, microphones, buttons on vending machines etc.) several times during the day.<sup>10</sup>

We have not found any information on current use of remote hearings and/or videoconferences within court proceedings due to COVID-19. It seems that all court proceedings are physically taking place at the courts. People who are at increased risk of being infected with COVID-19 are encouraged to contact the court prior to their appearance if they are feeling insecure or unsafe about their appearance.<sup>11</sup>

#### 1.2.5 Freedom of movement

Focus on:

- Steps to reopen borders/lift restrictions on freedom of movement to and within the EU, including rules or restrictions applying to certain categories of people (e.g. citizens; 'essential workers'). Please mention what requirements are in place for various categories of people to enter country (e.g. negative COVID-19 test result and/or obligation to self-isolate etc).
- Changes to asylum application procedures (e.g. lifting of temporary suspensions or restrictions on procedures) or available statistics on numbers of asylum applications (e.g. being much lower than for same period in previous years due to travel restrictions).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 'Københavns Byret berammer ekstra straffesager' *Danmarks Domstole*, available in Danish here: https://domstol.dk/koebenhavn/aktuelt/2020/6/koebenhavns-byret-berammer-ekstra/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 'Berammelse af civile sager' *Danmarks Domstole*, available in Danish here: https://domstol.dk/oestrelandsret/aktuelt/2020/6/berammelse-af-civile-sager/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> ' 7 mio. til bunkebekæmpelse i 2020' *Danmarks Domstole*, available in Danish here: https://domstol.dk/aktuelt/2020/6/7-mio-til-bunkebekaempelse-i-2020/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 'Retningslinjer for hygiejne' *Danmarks Domstole*, available in Danish here: <a href="https://domstol.dk/alle-emner/corona-sagsafvikling-i-retten/retningslinjer-for-adfaerd-og-hygiejne/">https://domstol.dk/alle-emner/corona-sagsafvikling-i-retten/retningslinjer-for-adfaerd-og-hygiejne/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Retningslinjer for hygiejne' *Danmarks Domstole*, available in Danish here: <a href="https://domstol.dk/alle-emner/corona-sagsafvikling-i-retten/retningslinjer-for-adfaerd-og-hygiejne/">https://domstol.dk/alle-emner/corona-sagsafvikling-i-retten/retningslinjer-for-adfaerd-og-hygiejne/</a>.

Leading up to 27 June, all non-essential travelling was discouraged.<sup>12</sup> On 15 June, tourists from Norway, Germany and Iceland were allowed to go on vacation in Demark if their stay was at least 6 nights long and outside of Copenhagen.<sup>13</sup>

Effective 27 June, the Danish Government has implemented a new model for opening the borders and easing travel advice for countries in the EU and Schengen area, as well as the UK. The model establishes a number of objective criteria, including a low number of infected persons, which determines the countries for which the borders are opened. To be "open", a country must have fewer than 20 infected persons per 100,000 inhabitants per week. Once a country is open, the threshold for changing the status to "quarantine country" will be 30 infected persons per 100,000 inhabitants. This policy is designed to prevent opening and closing because of minor fluctuations from week to week. In addition, the model includes a "safety valve" (clause) if the spread of COVID-19 is increasing at a fast rate or if Statens Serum Institut finds the information from the country to be false or unreliable.<sup>14</sup>

A special mechanism has been established for the Nordic countries. If a Nordic country does not meet the objective criteria for categorisation as "open", the country will instead be subject to a regional scheme. In these cases, the Danish borders will be open for entry by persons residing in regions of the country that meet the criterion on the number of infected persons per week.

Generally, if a country or a region is categorised as open under the above-described model, persons residing in that country are required to document a stay of a minimum of six nights.

However, the requirement of documenting a stay of a minimum of six nights does not apply to the following border regions: Schleswig-Holstein, Skåne, Halland, Blekinge, and Norway. Persons residing in these areas must only present proof of residence. If the region does not meet the objective criteria above, persons entering Denmark are required to show a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to entering into Denmark.

Since 15 June 2020, the Danish Immigration Service has been functioning as normal, but with delays due to e.g. precautionary measures at the Citizen Service where biometric features are recorded.

Before 15 June 2020, certain parts of the case processing were completely on hold because applicants could not appear in person at the Citizen Service.<sup>15</sup>

Very few asylum applications have been submitted since the outbreak of COVID-19. Here is a table of the latest available numbers on asylum applications:<sup>16</sup>

January 2020 February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ibid

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Emma Holst, 'Regeringen åbner grænsen for norske, tyske og islandske turister fra 15. juni' *Altinget*, available in Danish here: <a href="https://www.altinget.dk/artikel/live-mette-frederiksen-holder-pressemoede-omgraenserne">https://www.altinget.dk/artikel/live-mette-frederiksen-holder-pressemoede-omgraenserne</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Danmark åbner grænserne yderligere og lemper rejsevejledningerne', the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (see the pdf Fact Sheet 'faktaark' at the end of the article) available in Danish here: <a href="https://um.dk/da/nyheder-fra-udenrigsministeriet/newsdisplaypage/?newsID=AE42B703-ECD6-4836-A763-2052E641598F">https://um.dk/da/nyheder-fra-udenrigsministeriet/newsdisplaypage/?newsID=AE42B703-ECD6-4836-A763-2052E641598F</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): Information for the Immigration Service' users' *Danish Immigration Service*, available in English here: <a href="https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB/Words%20and%20Concepts%20Front%20Page/Shared/Corona\_COVID19\_Information/COVID19\_Information\_COVID19\_Informatio

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 'Seneste tal på udlændingeområdet' *Danish Immigration Service*, available in Danish here: <a href="https://nyidanmark.dk/da/Tal-og-statistik/Seneste-tal-på-udlændingeområdet">https://nyidanmark.dk/da/Tal-og-statistik/Seneste-tal-på-udlændingeområdet</a>.

Asylum	207	179	121	39	51
applications					

## 1.3 Impact of measures on particular groups

*Select the three most relevant groups from the following:* 

- persons with disabilities,
- homeless people,
- older people,
- women,
- Roma and Travellers (Note for those countries requested to collect additional data on the impact of COVID-19 on Roma Service request No 33 (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden), information submitted on Roma for Bulletin 4 should not be exactly duplicated in this additional data collection; however, a summary of main points concerning the Roma can be included in your submission for this Bulletin to ensure that, where appropriate, any major developments in your Member State concerning this group are reported in Bulletin 4. The same approach applues regarding information supplied on asylum seekers/refugees).
- Detainees (including measures on early release or alternatives to detention)
- or another group not listed that have immerged in your country as facing particular challenges before selection, this should be discussed with FRA.

#### Older people

On 9 June 2020, a new executive order partially lifted restrictions on visits at nursing homes. Visits should still, when possible, be conducted outside. Indoor visits are possible in critical situations. It is no longer possible to prohibit outdoor visits. Certain residents at nursing homes will be allowed to have 1-2 regular visitors if they because of their health cannot conduct visits outside or because the physical environment excludes the possibility of outdoor visitors.<sup>17</sup>

On 15 June 2020, all persons above the age of 65 are offered a vaccine against pneumococcus free of charge. This is done to reduce the number of patients at risk.<sup>18</sup>

#### **Detainees**

From 18 May 2020 through June 2020, the Danish Prison and Probation Service (*Kriminalforsorgen*) gradually transitioned back to normal prison services. <sup>19</sup> New inmates no longer need to be isolated from other inmates for 14 days when they arrive at the prison, visiting procedures are back to normal, prison leave (*udgang*) is allowed again for all groups of inmates, occupation in prison is conducted normally, and inmates can again be transferred between prisons. In connection with the normalising

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 'Gradvis genåbning på plejehjem og sygehuse' *Sundheds- og Ældreministeriet,* available in Danish here: <a href="https://sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Juni/Gradvis-genaabning-paa-plejehjem-og-sygehuse.aspx">https://sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Juni/Gradvis-genaabning-paa-plejehjem-og-sygehuse.aspx</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 'Alle over 65 år får nu tilbud om pneumokokvaccine' *Sundheds- og Ældreministeriet,* available in Danish here: <a href="https://sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Juni/pneumokokvaccinationer.aspx">https://sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Juni/pneumokokvaccinationer.aspx</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Information om COVID-19, *the Danish Prison and Probation Service*, available in Danish here: https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/corona/.

of prison functions special compensation initiatives, such as the possibility of using a private mobile phone in open prisons, have been discontinued.<sup>20</sup>

The Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman reports in an oral contribution, that the Ombudsman will resume some of their usual inspections in several institutions located under The Danish Prison and Probation Service during June 2020.<sup>21</sup> The inspections in June will focus on three institutions examining how the institutions have dealt with COVID-19 and how the people concerned have been affected by COVID-19 measures. The institutions that will be inspected are the department of foreigners located under Nyborg prison (*Nyborg Fængsels udlændingeafdeling*), Blegdamsvejens prison for detainees in custody, (*Blegdamsvejens Arrest*) and pension Engelsborg for detainees serving the last part of their sentence (*Pension Engelsborg*). The inspection will involve interviews with the management and the inserted people of the institutions.<sup>22</sup>

The above-mentioned inspections were all conducted in June 2020. On 10 and 11 June the Ombudsman's visiting team inspected Pension Engelsborg and on 17 and 18 June they inspected three deportation sections in Nyborg Prison and Blegdamsvejens Arrest. The interviews with the management and employees were held via video conference and the interviews with inmates were held in the institutions.<sup>23</sup>

#### Persons with disabilities

The executive order that imposed general restrictions on visitation in social housing offers (botilbud), which include some persons with disabilities, has been lifted on 24 June 2020. The management of each social housing offer can impose local visit restrictions under the following circumstances: 1) if the management assesses that visit restrictions are necessary due to residents or employees belonging to the specific risk groups or 2) a local outbreak of COVID-19 in the housing offer.<sup>24</sup> The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior (Social- og Indenrigsministeriet) followed up the repeal of the general restrictions with new adapted guidelines.<sup>25</sup>

In late June, the Danish Institute for Human Rights published a report on the COVID-19 restrictions for persons with disabilities who are institutionalised in Denmark. The report is based on 20 qualitative interviews and found that the restrictions on visitation were "over-implemented" and thus hit harder than intended. <sup>26</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 'Hverdagen vender tilbage i landets fængsler og arrester' *Kriminalforsorgen,* available in Danish here: <a href="https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/om-os/nyt-og-presse/nyheder/hverdagen-vender-tilbage-i-landets-faengsler-og-arrester/">https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/om-os/nyt-og-presse/nyheder/hverdagen-vender-tilbage-i-landets-faengsler-og-arrester/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Denmark, press release from the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman, 3 June 2020, available in Danish, at: <a href="http://www.ombudsmanden.dk/find/nyheder/alle/covid-19-tilsyn/">http://www.ombudsmanden.dk/find/nyheder/alle/covid-19-tilsyn/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Denmark, orientation from the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman to the Danish Parliament, 3 June 2020, available in Danish, at: https://www.ft.dk/samling/20191/almdel/%C2%A771/bilag/98/2202554/index.htm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> 'Ombudsmanden: Kan en fremtidig epidemi håndteres mindre restriktivt i kriminalforsorgens institutioner?' available here: <a href="http://www.ombudsmanden.dk/find/nyheder/alle/haandtering\_af\_fremtidig\_epidemi/">http://www.ombudsmanden.dk/find/nyheder/alle/haandtering\_af\_fremtidig\_epidemi/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 'Nu er hverdagen tilbage på sociale tilbud' *Social- og Indenrigsministeriet*, available in Danish here: <a href="https://sim.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2020/jun/nu-er-hverdagen-tilbage-paa-sociale-tilbud/">https://sim.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2020/jun/nu-er-hverdagen-tilbage-paa-sociale-tilbud/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> ' Ny udgave af retningslinjer for genoptagelse af aktiviteter på socialområdet' *Social- og Indenrigsministeriet*, available in Danish here: <a href="https://sim.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2020/jun/ny-udgave-af-retningslinjer-for-genoptagelse-af-aktiviteter-paa-socialomraadet/">https://sim.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2020/jun/ny-udgave-af-retningslinjer-for-genoptagelse-af-aktiviteter-paa-socialomraadet/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> The Danish Institute for Human Rights, 'besøgsrestriktioner på botilbud' available in Danish here: <a href="https://menneskeret.dk/sites/menneskeret.dk/files/media/document/Besøgsrestriktioner%20på%20botilbud.pdf">https://menneskeret.dk/sites/menneskeret.dk/files/media/document/Besøgsrestriktioner%20på%20botilbud.pdf</a>.

## 2 Selected issues emerging during the COVID-19 crisis

## 2.1 Xenophobic speech, acts of harassment and violent attacks

• In reference to Bulletin #1 where these issues were addressed, please report incidents of xenophobic speech, acts of harassment and violent attacks against specific minority groups on the grounds of race or ethnic origin during the reporting period and on any key developments since you last reported on this issue.

On 30 June 2020, the Danish Institute for Human Rights published a report on minorities' experience of being exposed to hatred in the public space during COVID-19. On the basis of a survey and interviews with people from minority groups the report concludes that minorities have been particularly exposed to hatred during the COVID-19 epidemic. The experiences range from shouts of "go home", derogatory words about Asians, accusations of being "disease spreaders", being spat after and threatening behaviour to what the minority people experience as a general distance — not just measured in meters. In several cases, respondents have been in the company of their children who have watched the incident.<sup>27</sup>

A person adopted from Asia had the following experience: "I had just gotten out of a shop and I am putting away some items under the stroller. And a man comes out, walks over to us and exclaims (in a local dialect): "You should go home to where you come from, instead of dragging such shit up here. It's disgusting". Then he spat after me and my son on the ground in front of us."<sup>28</sup>

An immune-compromised person who went shopping wearing a mask also reported that a stranger had shouted at her to go home and told her that "We are some who have to keep this country going and we should actually be able to work" (assuming that she was a disease carrier).<sup>29</sup>

## 2.2 Infringement of privacy and/or data protection rights

• In reference to Bulletin # 1 and Bulletin #2 where these issues were addressed, please describe instances of infringement of privacy and/or data protection rights related to the pandemic during the reporting period and on any key developments since you last reported on this issue.

On 18 June 2020, the Ministry of Health launched the release of a mobile app with the objective of preventing the spread of COVID-19. With the app a user can send a message to people they have been close to, e.g. in public transport or at a restaurant, if they get tested positive with COVID-19. The message is given to other app users without them knowing who the COVID-19 infected citizen is. If an app user has been close to a person infected with COVID-19, the app user will receive guidelines from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Danish Institute for Human Rights report, 'Had i det offentlige rum under COVID-19-epidimien', p. 50-52 report available in Danish and summary available in English at: <a href="https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/had-offentlige-rum-covid-19-epidemien-analyse-minoriteters-oplevelser">https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/had-offentlige-rum-covid-19-epidemien-analyse-minoriteters-oplevelser</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Danish Institute for Human Rights report, 'Had i det offentlige rum under COVID-19-epidimien', p. 50-52 report available in Danish and summary available in English at: <a href="https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/had-offentlige-rum-covid-19-epidemien-analyse-minoriteters-oplevelser">https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/had-offentlige-rum-covid-19-epidemien-analyse-minoriteters-oplevelser</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Danish Institute for Human Rights report, 'Had i det offentlige rum under COVID-19-epidimien', p. 44 report available in Danish and summary available in English at: <a href="https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/had-offentlige-rum-covid-19-epidemien-analyse-minoriteters-oplevelser">https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/had-offentlige-rum-covid-19-epidemien-analyse-minoriteters-oplevelser</a>.

the Danish Health Authorities through the app. It is voluntary to download the app.<sup>30</sup> Data on whom a person has been in contact with is only saved on that person's mobile phone, and no authorities have access to the information.<sup>31</sup>

Within the first week after the launch, the app was downloaded 497.000 times. The function of sending a message to other app users when a user is tested positive with COVID-19 was used 80 times. $^{32}$ 

## 2.3 Spread of disinformation online

• In reference to Bulletin #1 where these issues were addressed, please describe measures taken to counter the spread of disinformation online, during the reporting period and on any key developments since you last reported on this issue.

In a report published by the Danish Institute for Human Rights on 24 June 2020, it appears that there has been disinformation about the symptoms of COVID-19 in residential areas with many vulnerable ethnic minorities. There has been rumours that a symptom of COVID-19 is spots on the body and that eating certain foods can prevent the illness.<sup>33</sup>

A Danish media called 'TjekDet' does fact checking on stories that are spread through social media. Shortly after the Danish government decided to close most parts of society a checklist of symptoms of COVID-19, influenza and the flue was shared more than 10.000 times through Facebook, but the checklist is simplified and misleading and not compliant with the Danish Health Authority's recommendations.<sup>34</sup>

Other examples of disinformation are stories of how marijuana and cocaine can cure COVID-19.<sup>35</sup> Conspiracy theories are also shared. Examples are that the COVID-19 pandemic is made up because it makes it easy to control the masses and videos of empty hospital corridors are supposed to prove it. Another theory that was shared is that COVID-19 was made up because it makes it easier to set up 5G-technology.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> 'Nu er appen smittestop klar til danskerne' *Sundheds- og Ældreministeriet,* available in Danish at: <a href="https://www.sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Juni/Nu-er-appen-smittestop-klar-til-danskerne.aspx">https://www.sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Juni/Nu-er-appen-smittestop-klar-til-danskerne.aspx</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> The webpage of the Danish Police, available in Danish at: <a href="https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark/smittestop-app">https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark/smittestop-app</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> 'Smittestop appen downloadet tæt på en halv million gange på den første uge' *Sundheds- og Ældreministeriet*, available in Danish at:

https://www.sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Juni/Smittestop-appen-downloadet-taet-paa-en-halv-million-gange-paa-den-foerste-uge.aspx.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Danish Institute for Human Rights report, 'Corona rammer skævt - etnicitet og smitte', available in Danish at: <a href="https://menneskeret.dk/sites/menneskeret.dk/files/media/billeder/udgivelser/ligebehandling">https://menneskeret.dk/sites/menneskeret.dk/files/media/billeder/udgivelser/ligebehandling</a> 2020/rapport <a href="mailto:corona">corona rammer skaevt.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> ' Tusindvis af danskere deler hjemmelavet corona-tjekliste – men budskabet er ubrugeligt', *TjekDet*, available in Danish at: <a href="https://www.mm.dk/tjekdet/artikel/tusindvis-af-danskere-deler-hjemmelavet-corona-tjekliste-men-budskabet-er-ubrugeligt">https://www.mm.dk/tjekdet/artikel/tusindvis-af-danskere-deler-hjemmelavet-corona-tjekliste-men-budskabet-er-ubrugeligt</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> ' Hverken cannabis eller kokain kan kurere coronavirus', *TjekDet*, available in Danish at: https://www.mm.dk/tjekdet/artikel/hverken-cannabis-eller-kokain-kan-kurere-coronavirus.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> 'Corona-konspiration lever også i Danmark, men sandheden om covid-19 findes næppe på sygehuset i Holbæk', *TjekDet*, available in Danish at: <a href="https://www.mm.dk/tjekdet/artikel/corona-konspiration-lever-ogsaa-i-danmark-men-sandheden-om-covid-19-findes-naeppe-paa-sygehuset-i-holbaek">https://www.mm.dk/tjekdet/artikel/corona-konspiration-lever-ogsaa-i-danmark-men-sandheden-om-covid-19-findes-naeppe-paa-sygehuset-i-holbaek</a>.