

Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications

Country: Denmark

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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.

Denmark has not derogated from ECHR during the COVID-19 outbreak and has not declared a national emergency state.

Denmark has introduced emergency laws executive orders (*bekendtgørelser*) as mentioned in previous reports. Some have been extended, and new ones have entered into force. The most central of these are mentioned in the sections below.

1.2 Measures affecting the general population

On 7 May 2020, the Prime Minister announced the plan for the second phase of the controlled reopening of Denmark.¹ The controlled reopening has in total four phases and the preliminary plan for third and fourth phase was announced on 8 May 2020.² On 20 May 2020, the government announced an agreement on additional reopening in the second phase.³

The Danish Health Authority (*Sundhedsstyrelsen*) will provide continuously revised guidelines regarding distance, hygiene et cetera for all companies and organisations that open. The general guidelines will be adjusted in cooperation with the relevant sector partners to produce specific guidelines to accommodate the reopening of specific sectors.⁴

1.2.1 Social distancing

Focus on:

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

On 18 March 2020, the Danish Government issued executive order no. 224 (Bekendtgørelse om forbud mod større forsamlinger og mod adgang til og restriktioner for lokaler og lokaliteter i forbindelse med håndtering af covid-19) ordering, inter alia, a temporary ban on assemblies, events, activities etc. involving more than 10 people.

This executive order has since been extended several times. A broad range of assemblies, events, activities etc. are exempted from the ban. Thus, the executive order, for example, does not apply to

¹ Denmark, Agreement on second phase of a controlled reopening (*Aftale om anden fase af kontrolleret genåbning*), 7 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/07-05-2020-Aftale-om-anden-fase-af-en-kontrolleret-gen-bning.pdf>

² Denmark, Agreement on the plan for the reopening of Denmark (*Aftale om plan for genåbning af Danmark*), 8 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Aftale-om-plan-for-gen-bning-af-Danmark.pdf>

³ Denmark, Agreement on additional reopening in phase two (*Aftale om yderligere genåbning i fase 2*), 20 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Aftale.pdf>

⁴ Denmark, Agreement on the plan for the reopening of Denmark (*Aftale om plan for genåbning af Danmark*), 8 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Aftale-om-plan-for-gen-bning-af-Danmark.pdf>

the Danish Parliament (as of 5 April 2020), the Courts (as of 20 April 2020) or political assemblies, events, activities etc. (has always been exempted).

Persons violating the ban are subject to a fine of 2500 DKK for first time offenders.⁵ Southeastern Jutland police have enforced the ban by giving 38 fines especially to young people.⁶

1.2.2 Education

Focus on:

- *Steps to reopen educational institutions (schools, third level educational facilities and kindergartens/day care). Please 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.)*

As part of the second phase of the reopening plan from 7 May 2020, students at all years of state school (*folkeskolen*) can return, exams and lessons with a requirement of physical attendance can be conducted and continuation boarding schools (*efterskoler*) open again.⁷ As part of the agreement on additional reopening in the second phase from 20 May 2020, the folk high schools (*højskoler*), adult education and youth education reopen on 27 May 2020. Higher education institutions can conduct oral exams physically and lessons that require physical attendance from 27 May 2020.⁸

Initiatives have been taken to ensure that socially vulnerable children and adults and people with disabilities can get through the COVID-19 phases, including the reopening, in the best possible way. The initiatives are part of a political agreement that consists of a large number of initiatives across ministerial areas. There will also be additional funding for summer activities and camps as well as extra funding for organizations working with vulnerable children and their families.

The recommended distance between students has been changed from 2 meters to 1 meter but it is still recommended that the teacher keeps a 2 meter distance from the front row of the class.⁹

Guidelines for the reopening of folk high schools allowed that students could dispense from the distance recommendation in groups of 20 – so called “family groups”, but the day before the opening of the schools, the Danish Health Authority, due to a misinterpretation by the authorities of the original screening of the guidelines, changed the guidelines so the family groups could consist of no more than 8 students. The change meant that same size of family groups were allowed at folk high

⁵ Denmark, Fines for violating restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19 (*Bødetakster for at overtræde restriktioner som følge af COVID-19*), available in Danish at: <https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark/boedetakster-for-at-overtraede-restriktioner-som-foelge-af-covid-19>

⁶ Denmark, 38 fines for violating the assembly ban (*38 bøder for overtrædelse af forsamlingsforbuddet*), 18 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://politi.dk/sydoestjyllands-politi/nyhedsliste/38-boeder-for-overtraedelse-af-forsamlingsforbuddet/2020/05/18>

⁷ Denmark, Agreement on second phase of a controlled reopening (*Aftale om anden fase af kontrolleret genåbning*), 7 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/07-05-2020-Aftale-om-anden-fase-af-en-kontrolleret-genbning.pdf>

⁸ Denmark, Agreement on additional reopening in phase two (*Aftale om yderligere genåbning I fase 2*), 20 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Aftale.pdf>

⁹ Denmark, Guideline for prevention of spread of COVID-19 (*COVID-19: Forebyggelse af smittespredning*), 10 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.sst.dk/-/media/Udgivelser/2020/Corona/Forebyggelse-af-smittespredning/publikation.ashx?la=da&hash=FD3E64042EEDB7A6C3305BD37A003B5B58B1BC79>

schools and continuation boarding schools. The sudden change in guidelines have made it more difficult for folk high schools to plan and organise the reopening.¹⁰

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.)*
- *People in precarious work*

As part of the second phase of the reopening plan from 7 May 2020, professional sports without spectators and outdoor sport and association activities can open immediately. On 11 May 2020, retail including shopping centres open. On 18 May 2020, loan at libraries, churches and religious communities, cafes, restaurants and pubs open.¹¹ Guidelines for reopening of cafes, restaurants and pubs require a minimum of 2 square meters per person for sitting guests, a minimum of 4 square meters per person for mainly standing guests, closing hour at 12 a.m. (midnight), a distance requirement of a least 1 meter between parties or alternatively a physical barrier such as glass or plastic among other things.¹² As part of the agreement on additional reopening in the second phase persons working in the public sector not performing 'critical functions' can physically return to work from 27 May 2020, but due to great regional differences in the incidence of COVID-19 this does not include persons working in the public sector in Region Zealand and the Capital Region of Denmark. As part of the additional reopening in the second phase the Danish media stations *Danmarks Radio* and TV 2 fully reopen.¹³

As part of the second phase of the supplemental reopening plan of 20 May 2020, a broad range of cultural activities (museums, theatres, cinemas, animal parks, and amusement parks), educational activities, the public sector apart from Region Zealand and the Capital Region of Denmark, reopened per 27 May 2020. As part of the same reopening plan, the restrictions concerning the senior citizen, hospital and corrections sectors, respectively, were relaxed.¹⁴

1.2.4 Access to justice

Focus on:

- *Strategies /steps to lift measures or restrictions previously imposed on court proceedings (e.g. resuming physical hearings)*

¹⁰ Denmark, TV Syd (Danish media), Folk high school principal: Policy change in guidelines is impossible to work with (*Højskoleforstander: Kovending i retningslinjer er umuligt at arbejde med*), 1 June 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.tvsyd.dk/covid-19/hojskoleforstander-kovending-i-retningslinjer-er-umuligt-arbejde-med>

¹¹ Denmark, Agreement on second phase of a controlled reopening (*Aftale om anden fase af kontrolleret genåbning*), 7 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/07-05-2020-Aftale-om-anden-fase-af-en-kontrolleret-gen-bning.pdf>

¹² Denmark, Guidelines for responsible arrangement of restuarants, cafes, amusement parks, hotels and holiday resorts etc. in the light outbreak of COVID-19 (*Retningslinjer for ansvarlig indretning af restauranter, caféer, forlystelsesparker, hoteller og feriecentre m.v. i lyset af udbruddet af COVID-19*), 14 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://em.dk/media/13726/retningslinjer-for-ansvarlig-indretning-af-restauranter-cafeer-mv-140520.pdf>

¹³ Denmark, Agreement on additional reopening in phase two (*Aftale om yderligere genåbning I fase 2*), 20 May 2020 available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Aftale.pdf>

¹⁴ Denmark, Supplemental agreement on second phase of a controlled reopening (*Aftale om yderligere genåbning I fase 2*), 20 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Aftale.pdf>

- *Measures to address the backlog in cases/proceedings prompted by lockdown restrictions*

Courts have been open for all types of cases since 27 April 2020. Guidelines and measures to conduct proceedings in a safe manner are still in place and are described in the previous report.

The courts have an increased case processing time which has become a bigger problem during COVID-19. But the increased case processing time is not only caused by COVID-19. The courts already had an increasing case processing time before COVID-19 because the courts have received an increasing amount of cases during the last 5 years and because the cases have become more complex.¹⁵

The Danish Court Administration (*Domstolsstyrelsen*) estimated that it would be possible to conduct approximately 75 % of all cases after the reopening. Numbers from the Danish Court Administration has shown that the district courts have conducted approximately 85 % of cases in the first weeks after the reopening compared with an average work week in 2019.¹⁶

1.2.5 Freedom of movement

Focus on:

- *Steps to reopen borders/lift restrictions on freedom of movement to (external borders) and within the EU (internal borders), including rules or restrictions applying to certain categories of people (citizens; 'essential workers'; cross border commuters etc). 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 quarantine; work certificate etc).*
- *Any changes to asylum application procedures (e.g. lifting of temporary suspensions or restrictions on procedures, or mentioning whether such restrictions are rather still in place)*

As of 25 May 2020 the Danish government has expanded the list of purposes that allows for entry into Denmark. The expansion includes persons who live in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and Germany meaning that such persons can enter into Denmark with a variety of purposes such as; summer cottage owners, partners, engaged, grandparents etc. Furthermore, business trips to and from Denmark can be resumed, as long as they are in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the sector partnership.¹⁷

On 29 May 2020, the Prime Minister of Denmark announced that as of 15 June 2020 restrictions on entry into Denmark will be lifted for travelers from Norway, Germany and Iceland.

The restrictions for entering into Denmark will be lifted for travelers who can document (e.g. by a rental document on a holiday home, camping stay, hotel or similar) a stay of minimum 6 nights in Denmark. Travelers will on a random basis be encouraged to take a test for COVID-19 at border crossings. In addition, there will be mobile test stations in the tourist areas, i.a. at hot spots. The increased testing is done to monitor the development and discover possible new chains of infection.

¹⁵ Denmark, Increased waiting time in spite of increased productivity (*Stigende ventetid trods øget produktivitet*), 27 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.domstol.dk/aktuelt/2020/5/stigende-ventetid-trods-oeget-produktivitet/>

¹⁶ Denmark, District courts started well (*Byretterne kom flot fra start*), 20 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.domstol.dk/aktuelt/2020/5/byretterne-kom-flot-fra-start/>

¹⁷ Denmark, Agreement on additional reopening in phase two (*Aftale om yderligere genåbning I fase 2*), 20 May 2020 available in Danish at: <https://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Aftale.pdf>

Everyday life in the borderland between Denmark and Germany is to be normalized as far as possible.¹⁸

Following COVID-19 asylum interviews have been put on hold. A pilot project was launched where some asylum interviews under the Dublin-procedure were conducted using Skype to assist the Danish Immigration Service in deciding whether to send a request to another EU member state on handling the asylum application.¹⁹ The restrictions on most asylum interviews are still in place. However, the authorities are starting to conduct asylum interviews with physical presence in urgent cases (including cases where the asylum-seeker is imprisoned or have waited for a long time).

1.3 Impact of measures on particular groups

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

- *persons with disabilities,*
- *homeless people,*
- *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 3 should not be duplicated in this additional data collection)*
- *Detainees (including measures on early release or alternatives to detention)*
- *or another group not listed that have immigrated in your country as facing particular challenges - before selection, this should be discussed with FRA.*

Homeless people

On 15 May 2020, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior (*Social- og Indenrigsministeriet*) announced new guidelines for social offers (institutions) and authorities to follow in the gradual reopening of activities in the area of social services. These guidelines include information on how to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 when social workers are in contact with homeless people. They also include information on what to do if a homeless person has symptoms of COVID-19.²⁰ It is recommended that social workers pay special attention to whether a homeless person is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 as a homeless person may have difficulties in sensing changes to his/her state of health. For persons living on the street it is important that social workers regularly proactively seek contact to ensure the necessary help in case of infection with COVID-19. It is recommended that social workers “translate” information regarding COVID-19 to fit the situation of the homeless person. Furthermore, as people living on the street often seek together in smaller or larger groups it is recommended to support the forming of smaller groups with distance between each person.

¹⁸ Denmark, Fact sheet, 29 May 2020, available in English at:

<https://www.regeringen.dk/nyheder/2020/pressemoeede-i-statsministeriet-fredag-den-29-maj/>

¹⁹ The Danish Parliament, Parliamentary Committee on Foreigners and Immigration, response to question number 299 posed on 11 May 2020, 29 May 2020, available in Danish here:

<https://www.ft.dk/samling/20191/almdel/uui/spm/299/svar/1665032/2200299/index.htm>

²⁰ Denmark, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior (*Social og Indenrigsministeriet*), Guidelines for resuming activities in the social area, available in Danish at: <https://sim.dk/media/38078/retningslinjer-for-genoptagelse-af-aktiviteter-paa-socialomraadet-3-udgave.pdf>.

Detainees

The Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*) has launched several initiatives to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within its facilities, including visit restrictions, leave restrictions and downsizing of staffing.²¹

Some of the initiatives have been taken on the basis of Executive order no. 221 of 17 March 2020 on prevention and containment of the prevalence of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in The Danish Prison and Probation Service (*Bekendtgørelse om forebyggelse og inddæmmelse af udbredelse af Coronavirussygdom 2019 (COVID-19) på kriminalforsorgens område*) grants, among other things, the possibility for the Prison and Probation Service to restrict the detainees' right to visit, leave or access to association with other inmates in order to prevent or contain the prevalence of COVID-19 in the prison institutions and establishes alternatives to the supervision that is being conducted in cases of alternatives to detention.²² The effect of the order has so far been extended to 22 June 2020.

On 12 March 2020, the Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*) ceased to commit convicted offenders to serving their prison sentence if they had not been detained following their sentence. Commitment of convicted offenders to serve their sentence was resumed as part of Denmark's gradual reopening from 17 April 2020. On 23 April 2020, the Danish Prison and Probation Service issued the first call for convicted offenders to be committed to serve their sentences, the convicted offenders will gradually be called to serve their sentences to ensure that it happens safely. The Danish Prison and Probation Service made special reception capacity (*modtagekapacitet*) so new inmates could be isolated from other inmates 14 days from the arrival to the prison.²³

On 15 May 2020, the Danish Prison and Probation Service announced that it would gradually reopen inmates' possibilities for occupation such as education, treatment against abuse and work.²⁴

On 18 May 2020, the Danish Prison and Probation Service gradually started re-opening for visits for inmates with underage children and inmates in the age group 15-17 years. There are certain requirements for the physical environment during a visit and cleaning following a visit²⁵. Visits will only be possible in the institutions that have visiting rooms or visiting sections. In pensions visits can be conducted outside if there are no visiting rooms. Each room/section will be thoroughly cleaned after each visit and all inmates and visitors will be given thorough guidance on avoiding contamination when in close contact and the need for washing hands or using hand sanitizer. Inmates with minor children (0-17 years old) may receive visits from up to three persons at a time. Inmates aged 15-17 may receive visits from up to two persons above 18 years of age. On 26 May 2020, the Danish Prison and Probation

²¹ Denmark, Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*), information on COVID-19, available in Danish at: <https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/corona/>

²² Denmark, Executive order no. 221 of 17 March 2020 on Prevention and containment of the prevalence of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in The Danish Prison and Probation Service (*Bekendtgørelse om forebyggelse og inddæmmelse af udbredelse af Coronavirussygdom 2019 (COVID-19) på kriminalforsorgens område*) available in Danish at: <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/ta/2020/221>

²³ Denmark, Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*), information on COVID-19, available in Danish at: <https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/corona/>

²⁴ Denmark, Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*), Inmates are given the opportunity for more occupation, available in Danish at: <https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/om-os/nyt-og-presse/nyheder/indsatte-faar-mulighed-for-mere-beskaeftigelse/>

²⁵ Denmark, Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*), the Danish Prison and Probation Service opens for the first visits, available in Danish at: <https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/om-os/nyt-og-presse/nyheder/kriminalforsorgen-aabner-for-de-foerste-besoeg/>

Service expanded visitation rights to include close relatives for all inmates except detainees who are subject to visitation and correspondence supervision and inmates who are in 14 day quarantine.²⁶

On 28 May 2020, the Danish Prison and Probation Service announced that it will be normalising certain functions towards mid-June. Some of these functions include community service, sentences with electronic tagging and physical supervision meetings.²⁷

Persons with disabilities

On 13 May 2020, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior (*Social- og Indenrigsministeriet*) announced a new executive order that allows citizens in housing offers (*botilbud*), which include some persons with disabilities, to receive visits in outdoor areas under certain restrictions.²⁸ This lifts the ban on visits that entered into force on 5 April 2020.²⁹ According to the executive order citizens in housing offers may receive visits in outdoor areas from one or two close relatives that has been appointed following a concrete assessment. It is the same relatives that the person may receive visits from. It may also be possible following a concrete assessment for some persons to receive visits in the indoor area that is solely at the person's disposal. The management at each housing offer defines the rules governing visits at the housing offer. Such rules should consider e.g. if there are persons at the housing offer in particular risk of infection with COVID-19 and set a time-frame for visits (including a visiting time at the housing offer), the interval of visits and a maximum number of concurrent visitors.

As mentioned above in the section about homeless people, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior (*Social- og Indenrigsministeriet*) announced new guidelines for social offers (institutions) and authorities to follow in the gradual reopening of activities in the area of social services. These guidelines include information on how to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 when social workers are in contact with citizens receiving support in their own homes, which include some persons with disabilities. There is also information on what to do if a person with a disability, who receives support in their own home, shows symptoms of COVID-19.³⁰

It is recommended that when social workers in contact with such citizens give special attention to symptoms of COVID-19 and help the person in contacting a general practitioner or the medical helpline if the person has newly arisen fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache or muscle soreness. The doctor decides if the persons should get tested for COVID-19.

²⁶ Denmark, Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*), Extension of visits to inmates, available in Danish at: <https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/om-os/nyt-og-presse/nyheder/udvidelse-af-besoeg-til-indsatte/>

²⁷Denmark, Danish Prison and Probation Service (*kriminalforsorgen*), The Danish Prison and Probation Service normalizes oversight, community service, and foot shackles, available in Danish at: <https://www.kriminalforsorgen.dk/om-os/nyt-og-presse/nyheder/kriminalforsorgen-normaliserer-tilsyn-afvikling-af-samfundstjeneste-og-fodlaenkeafsoning/>

²⁸ Denmark, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior (*Social og Indenrigsministeriet*), Citizens in social housing offers can now receive visits in outdoor areas, available in Danish at: <https://sim.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2020/maj/borgere-paa-social-og-botilbud-kan-nu-modtage-besoeg-paa-udearealer/>

²⁹ Denmark, Executive order no. 372 of 4 April 2020 on temporary ban on visits in housing offers in the social area in the management of coronavirus disease 2019 (*Bekendtgørelse om midlertidigt forbud mod besøg på anbringelsessteder og botilbud m.v. på socialområdet i forbindelse med håndtering af Coronavirussygdom 2019 (COVID-19)*), available in Danish at: <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lt/2020/372>

³⁰ Denmark, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior (*Social og Indenrigsministeriet*), Guidelines for resuming activities in the social area, latest update June 12th 2020, available in Danish at: <https://sim.dk/media/38078/retningslinjer-for-genoptagelse-af-aktiviteter-paa-socialområdet-3-udgave.pdf>.

Social workers that have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19 should show increased awareness on possible symptoms. If even light symptoms occur the person should leave the workplace and only return following a period of 48 hours without symptoms.

2 Impact on fundamental rights of older people

Please provide information under each title / sub-title; and indicate n/a when no information available.

2.1 Data/statistics

Where available, data should be disaggregated by age groups and sex.

2.1.1 Share of persons 60+ in the total number of persons in the community infected, recovered and died in relation to COVID-19.

- Infected by COVID-19: 637.738 tests for COVID-19 have been executed in Denmark and 11.699 tested positive (updated on 1 June 2020 at 6 p.m.). 1727 were women aged 60+ and 1606 were men aged 60+ (updated on 28 May 2020 at 2 p.m.).³¹
- Recovered from COVID-19: 10.412 people have recovered from COVID-19 (age and sex distribution unknown) (updated on 1 June 2020 at 6 p.m.).³²
- Died in relation to COVID-19: in total 580 people have died from COVID-19 in Denmark (updated on 2 June 2020 at 2 p.m.). 552 of them were 60+, 242 were women and 310 were men.³³ (updated on 29 May 2020 at 2 p.m.).

2.1.2 Share of persons 60+ in the total number of persons in institutional settings infected, recovered and died in relation to COVID-19.

On 24 April 2020, it was reported that almost every third COVID-19 death occurred in a nursing home.³⁴ Unfortunately it has not been possible to find more recent statistics on COVID-19 in nursing homes.

There are more current figures available in regard to hospital admissions and persons 60+ infected by COVID-19.³⁵ 1562 people aged 60+ have been hospitalized due to COVID-19. 707 were women and 855 were men aged 60+ (updated on 29 Maj 2020 at 7 p.m.).³⁶

There is no data on how many of these persons recovered from COVID-19 or died in relation to COVID-19.

³¹ The Danish Health Authority, 'Numbers and Monitoring of COVID-19' updated on 2 June 2020 at 8 am, available in Danish here: <https://www.sst.dk/da/corona/tal-og-overvaagning> For better data visualizations see DR (Danish Broadcasting Corporation), available in Danish here: <https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/status-paa-coronavirus-lige-nu>

³² *ibid.*

³³ *ibid.*

³⁴ Ministry of Health, 'Almost every third COVID-19 death occurs in a nursing home' available in Danish here: <https://sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/April/Naesten-hvert-tredje-doedsfald-af-COVID-19-sker-blandt-plejehjemsbeboere.aspx>

³⁵ The Danish Health Authority, 'Numbers and Monitoring of COVID-19' updated on 2 June 2020 at 8 am, available in Danish here: <https://www.sst.dk/da/corona/tal-og-overvaagning> For better data visualizations see DR (Danish Broadcasting Corporation), available in Danish here: <https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/status-paa-coronavirus-lige-nu>

³⁶ *ibid.*

2.1.3 Number and type of institutions affected

N/a

2.1.4 Do official statistics on mortality rates from COVID-19 include deaths of older persons in care homes? Has there been any critique of data collection with respect to care homes?

The official statistics on mortality rates from COVID-19 includes all deaths recorded within 30 days from the infection was detected.³⁷

At the moment, it is possible for everyone who experiences mild symptoms to be tested for COVID-19, this includes older persons in nursing homes. The DaneAge Association has, however, criticized this strategy for not being offensive enough in regard to limiting infection amongst the elderly.³⁸

As previously mentioned, a report from 24 April 2020 showed that almost every third COVID-19 death occurred in a nursing home.³⁹ Unfortunately it has not been possible to find more recent statistics on COVID-19 in nursing homes.

2.1.5 Independent studies published on the situation of older persons with respect to the impact of and responses to COVID-19

Please reference up to three studies and provide brief information on their focus.

It has not been possible to identify any independent studies fulfilling the description.

2.2 COVID-19 measures targeting older people

Please indicate the age group/s concerned; e.g. 60+, 65+, 70+ etc.

Please consult and refer in particular to measures related to existing or planned national exit strategies (policies/measures).

Please report on developments for the reference period 1 May – 31 May (inclusive) and on any changes/revisions of measures reported in the 1st and 2nd bulletin regarding older people.

2.2.1 National guidelines/protocols in response to COVID-19 addressing older people

- in residential care homes (including protective equipment, visits etc.)

The Danish Health Authority (*Sundhedsstyrelsen*) has published a guide for nursing homes and other institutions on how to prevent COVID-19 infection in connection with the reopening of society of 20

³⁷ The Danish Health Authority, 'Numbers and Monitoring of COVID-19' updated on 24. May 2020 at 2 pm, available in Danish here: <https://www.sst.dk/da/corona/tal-og-overvaagning> For better data visualizations see DR (Danish Broadcasting Corporation), available in Danish here: <https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/status-paa-coronavirus-lige-nu>

³⁸ The DaneAge Association, 'groups at risk should be tested more' available here:

<https://www.aeldresagen.dk/presse/pressemateriale/nyheder/risikogrupper-boer-testes-mere>

³⁹ Ministry of Health, 'Almost every third COVID-19 death occurs in a nursing home' available in Danish here: <https://sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/April/Naesten-hvert-tredje-doedsfald-af-COVID-19-sker-blandt-plejehjemsbeboere.aspx>

May 2020 (fourth version).⁴⁰ It covers general infection prevention, the procedure for when an inhabitant is suspected of being infected, the procedure for when COVID-19 has been detected etc.

- in the community in general

The Danish Health Authority has also published a more general guideline for people who are at risk of getting seriously ill if they get infected (e.g. older persons) of 25 May 2020 (fifth version).⁴¹ The guide also covers what relatives and others can do in order to protect those at risk.

2.2.2 **National guidelines/protocols on patient triage that apply age as the main and decisive criterion**

N/a

2.2.3 **Targeted testing of residents and staff in residential care homes**

- Is this laid down in a targeted policy/measure or done on an ad-hoc basis when a case has been detected?

There is no national strategy for systematic testing of residents and staff in residential care homes.⁴² Some municipalities report to continuously testing residents and staff in their care homes.⁴³

Testing of all staff and residents is, however, required after a case has been detected.⁴⁴

As mentioned above, the DaneAge Association has criticized the testing strategy for not being offensive enough. They suggest that all nursing home residents, visitors and staff get tested more regularly even when they appear symptom-free.⁴⁵

- Data/statistics on testing & frequency of testing – institutions, residents, staff

N/a

⁴⁰ Guide for institutions by the Danish Health Authority, available in Danish here: <https://www.sst.dk/-/media/Udgivelser/2020/Corona/Genaabning/Plejecentre/Vejledning-om-forebyggelse-af-spredning-af-COVID19-paa-plejecentre.ashx?la=da&hash=0871F5300256F9EEF4844E0E809C78C35ED2E85F>

⁴¹ Guide for people who are at increased risk by the Danish Health Authority, available in Danish here:

<https://www.sst.dk/-/media/Udgivelser/2020/Corona/Haandtering-af-COVID-19/Personer-med-ogget-risiko/Haandtering-af-COVID-19-Anbefalinger-til-personer-i-oeget-risiko.ashx?la=da&hash=18DA603035A48EA9E44DE91737CB7BD240F1C4A8> was found here:

<https://www.sst.dk/da/Udgivelser/2020/Haandtering-af-COVID-19-Anbefalinger-til-personer-i-oeget-risiko>

⁴² Information for nursing home staff in case of suspected or proven COVID-19 by the National Serum Institute, 8 April 2020, available in Danish here:

<file:///C:/Users/essc/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/WASGNZ7M/Anbefalinger%20til%20personale%20i%20plejecentre.pdf> was found here: <https://hygiejne.ssi.dk/retningslinjer/infektionshygiejniske-retningslinjer-for-covid-19>

⁴³ Information on the handling of COVID-19 in care homes in Hillerød Municipality, 27. April 2020, available in Danish here: <https://www.hillerod.dk/kommunen/nyheder-fra-hilleroed-kommune/2020/saadan-arbejder-vi-med-test-og-haandtering-af-corona-paa-vores-plejehjem/>

⁴⁴ Faglige Seniorer, 'New guidelines will get more care home residents tested', 2. June 2020, available in Danish here: <https://fagligsenior.dk/2020/04/21/nu-saettes-i-gang-med-flere-corona-test-paa-plejehjem/>

⁴⁵ The DaneAge Association, 'groups at risk should be tested more' available in Danish here:

<https://www.aeldresagen.dk/presse/pressemateriale/nyheder/risikogrupper-boer-testes-mere>

2.2.4 Restrictions/bans on visits to residential care settings, and any (conditional) lifting of these restrictions

Please report on the conditions applied.

After a period with severe restrictions on visitation, it is now possible to receive visitors in nursing homes. In guidelines of 12 May 2020, the Danish Health Authority give recommendations to the planning and organizing of visits at nursery homes.⁴⁶ The guidelines follow a political agreement on 1 May 2020 on initiatives for weakened elderly vis-à-vis COVID-19.⁴⁷ The Danish Health Authority has published a guide on how to visit nursing homes safely.⁴⁸

The DaneAge Association has found, that some of the government recommendations are being interpreted too narrowly by nursing homes. They find that the nursing homes are making it too difficult for the elderly to receive visitors and that many are isolated and lonely.⁴⁹

The fact that some older persons living in nursing homes are actually being deprived of their liberty due to COVID-19 safety measures has also been criticized by the Alzheimer's Association.⁵⁰ Furthermore, both the Alzheimer's Association and the DaneAge Association have criticized that there are major local differences⁵¹.

2.2.5 Restrictive measures for older people living in the community

Please report on any restrictions for older people after gradual lifting of confinement measures (e.g. use of public services, work, and participation in voluntary and social activities).

There have been no restrictions specifically targeting older people and older people must follow the general rules addressed to the whole population. The general recommendations similarly apply to older people.

2.2.6 Access to healthcare for older people for conditions unrelated to COVID-19

Please report on measures targeted at older people living in the community and in institutional care settings (e.g. home-based visits, mobile health care, other hospital treatment).

⁴⁶ The Danish Health Authority, Guidelines on prevention of infection with COVID-19 during visits at nursery homes, 12 May 2020, available in Danish here: <https://www.sst.dk/-/media/Udgivelser/2020/Corona/Genaabning/Plejecentre/Retningslinjer-om-forebyggelse-af-smitte-med-COVID-19-ved-besog-paa-plejecentre.ashx?la=da&hash=BDE387FAB17A770B36FDD302F774E3C8D37909F9>

⁴⁷ Ministry of Health, press release, "broad agreement regarding help to the elderly during the corona crisis", 1 May 2020, available in Danish here: <https://sum.dk/Aktuelt/Nyheder/Coronavirus/2020/Maj/Bred-aftale-om-hjaelp-til-aeldre-under-coronakrisen.aspx>

⁴⁸ Guide for visiting nursing homes by the Danish Health Authority, available in Danish here: <https://www.sst.dk/-/media/Udgivelser/2020/Corona/Genaabning/Plejecentre/Til-dig-der-skal-besoege-en-paaroerende-paa-et-plejecenter-A5-digital.ashx?la=da&hash=FB716535A71AD9B6EC984995E6089CB6EC810687>

⁴⁹ Opinions by the DaneAge Association, available in Danish here: <https://www.aeldresagen.dk/om-aeldresagen/lige-nu/corona/Synspunkt/corona-det-mener-aeldre-sagen?scrollto=start>

⁵⁰ Kirsten Nilsson 'Nursing Home Residents deprived of their Liberty' Politiken, available in Danish here: <https://politiken.dk/indland/art7796174/Plejhjemsbeoere-bliver-reelt-frihedsberovet>

⁵¹ Kirsten Nilsson 'Nursing Home Residents deprived of their Liberty' Politiken, available in Danish here: <https://politiken.dk/indland/art7796174/Plejhjemsbeoere-bliver-reelt-frihedsberovet>

The procedure for regular doctor's appointments have been altered for everyone:⁵²

1. Always call your doctor first – do not show up without an appointment.
2. The consultation may be by phone or video call.
3. If your doctor assesses the need for examination or control of your illness, you will still be offered a consultation time in the clinic or a house visit.
4. You may find yourself being asked to come at a different time than you may be used to. This is done to reduce the risk of infection among the patients who attend a consultation.

We have not been able to find reporting of older people being denied access to any kind of medical treatment or information on measures specifically targeting older people vis-à-vis medical treatment.

2.2.7 Support measures and promising practices targeting older people, including access to goods and services online and offline, social/psychological support, and use of digital tools and technology

Please also report on any targeted measures for people with dementia.

Both the Alzheimer's Association⁵³ and the Danish Dementia Research Centre⁵⁴ have published some material in regards to COVID-19 and people with dementia. Both organisations are concerned that those who suffer from dementia will have difficulties protecting themselves from COVID-19 as they might forget to follow the guidelines (e.g. keep distance and wash hands regularly) and even forget if they have been showing symptoms of COVID-19. They stress that relatives and professionals need to pay special attention.

In general, older people can always contact their municipality if they need help with grocery shopping, getting to the doctor, have issues with technology etc.

During COVID-19, a lot of nongovernmental initiatives have also emerged. The Red Cross has opened a Corona Support Network to support those who are sick, in quarantine, or are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.⁵⁵ Together with Boblberg, the Red Cross is also offering digital 'visits' for people who report being lonely.⁵⁶ The DaneAge Association offers a similar phone service (*Telefonvenner*) just for older persons.⁵⁷

2.2.8 Consultation of older people's organisations and/or other civil society organisations in the design, implementation and review of COVID-19-related measures

The Danish Health Authority initially made the guideline for nursing homes and other institutions on how to prevent COVID-19 infection in connection with the reopening of society in consultation with

⁵² Guide on how to contact your doctor during COVID-19 by the Danish Health Authority, available in Danish here: https://www.sst.dk/da/Udgivelser/2020/Informationsmateriale_kontakt-til-egen-laege

⁵³ Information on COVID-19 from the Alzheimer's Association, available in Danish here: <https://www.alzheimer.dk/nyheder/2020/demens-og-coronavirus/>

⁵⁴ Information on COVID-19 from the Danish Dementia Research Centre, available in Danish here: <http://uk.videnscenterfordemens.dk>

⁵⁵ The Red Cross, Corona Support Network: <https://en.rodekors.dk/corona/hjaelp>

⁵⁶ Bobleberg and the Red Cross, information on digital visits ('SnakSammen'), available in Danish here: <https://boblberg.dk/Snaksammen>

⁵⁷ The DaneAge Association, information on how to get or become a 'phone friend', available in Danish here: <https://www.aeldresagen.dk/om-aeldresagen/lige-nu/aeldretelefonen>

Statens Serum Institut, Danish Patient Safety Authority (*Styrelsen for Patientsikkerhed*) and some municipalities. The guideline caused a great interest and many comments from civil society organisations. Therefore, the Danish Health Authority decided to include some organisations in a consultation to revise the guideline. Organisations included in the consultation were among others the DaneAge Association and the Alzheimer's Association. The consultation resulted with the revised guidelines containing clarifications such as that nursing staff is not required to be present during visits from relatives and alterations such as rewriting a phrase in the guidelines so it is acceptable that in some circumstances physical contact with visitors is unavoidable but should as far as possible be avoided.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Denmark, Compilation of comments from sectorpartners regarding guideline on how to prevent COVID-19 infection during visits at nursing homes, 7 May 2020, available in Danish at: <https://www.alzheimer.dk/media/197475/opsamlende-notat-vedr-kommentarer-fra-sektorpartnerskabet-om-retningslinje-vedr-besoeg-paa-plejecentre-2.pdf>