

Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications

Country: Sweden

Contractor's name: Emerga Institute

Date: 3 November 2020

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1 Measures taken by government/public authorities impacting on specific freedoms

Please briefly describe the main developments, between 1 September – 31 October 2020, in the legal framework and related measures adopted in your country in response to the Coronavirus pandemic with respect to emergency laws/state of emergency, freedom of assembly and freedom of movement.

1.1 Emergency laws/states of emergency

In **Sweden**, the government mainly work through the country's national, regional and local authorities. This is also the case when it comes to regarding the Swedish responses to COVID-19. The government may make decisions aimed at facilitating the efforts to control the spread of the pandemic and counteract its effects in society. These decisions are based on the recommendations from the relevant authorities. The communications from the government and the different authorities focus on the general public health benefits of different measures – or on the necessity to counteract the impact on the country's economy and labour market.

In **Sweden**, the main constitutionally protected freedoms or rights that have been restricted for all inhabitants in connection with the spread of the Coronavirus is the freedom of assembly, including the freedom of demonstrations with other people. All other restrictions aimed at the public are posed as recommendations from the government and/or the relevant authorities and cannot be imposed by any actions taken by the police.

In **Sweden**, the Public Health Agency's (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) regulations and general advice (*föreskrifter och allmänna råd*), commonly referred to as recommendations, remain in force. The recommendations are stricter for those who are 70 years or older and for those who belong to a designated risk group. On 19 October 2020, additions and revisions of these recommendations entered into force.¹ First of all, the duration of these regulations and general advice were extended from 31 December 2020 to 30 June 2021. Furthermore, an additional section enables the Public Health Agency to announce local recommendations, for limited periods, within geographically delimited areas.²

1.2 Freedom of assembly

In **Sweden**, the freedom of assembly has been restricted since the introduction of the Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events (*Förordning [2020:114] om förbud mot att hålla allmänna sammankomster och offentliga tillställningar*) on 12 March 2020.³ The terms public gatherings and public events are defined in the Public Order Act (*Ordningsslag [1993:1617]*).⁴ Since 29 March 2020, public gatherings and public events cannot exceed 50 participants. This restriction applies

¹ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Changes in the recommendations on everybody's responsibility to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 inter alia (*Ändring i föreskrifterna och allmänna råden (HSLF-FS 2020:12) om allas ansvar att förhindra smitta av covid-19 m.m.*), 19 October 2020, [available here](#)

² Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Local general recommendations for outbreaks of COVID-19 (*Lokala allmänna råd vid utbrott av covid-19*), 19 October 2020, [available here](#)

³ Sweden, Ordinance on the ban of arranging public gatherings and public events (*Förordning [2020:114] om förbud mot att hålla allmänna sammankomster och offentliga tillställningar*), section 1, 12 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁴ Sweden, Public Order Act (*Ordningsslag [1993:1617]*), 16 December 1993, [available here](#)

to all kind of public gathering including religious ones. Fitness centres, shopping centres, private parties, libraries, city squares etc. are not included in the ban.⁵ Please see below for more information about changes in these restrictions.

The Police has received questions from the general public concerning the crowding at public places and why these gathering are not dispersed by the Police. Lack of social distancing in public places is not covered by the ban. Furthermore, the ban also does not apply to those who stay in larger crowds on, for example, public transport, city squares, shopping centres and the like.⁶ In Sweden, on 29 September 2020, the government announced its plan to introduce another exemption in the Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events. The exemption was to allow public events with up to 500 persons if the audience could be seated with a one-metre distance from each other. The decision was intended to be made on 8 October, if the situation allowed it. However, on that date, the government and the Public Health Agency announced that the current limitation of 50 participants for public gatherings and events would remain.⁷ The government maintained that the decision was postponed due to the increased levels of infectivity in the country. A press release on 8 October also announced that the Public Health Agency had developed proposals on temporary local regulations of the general recommendations. Examples of local regulations could be that persons living in certain areas are called upon to avoid public transport, travelling, making visits to a person belonging to risk groups, among other things. The reason behind such local recommendations is the speedy increase of the infectivity in certain regions, which requires extra measures beyond of the general national guidelines. Such local recommendations have since been announced for Uppsala county (*Uppsala län*) on 20 October,⁸ for Skåne county on 27 October⁹ and for Stockholm, Östergötland and Västra Götaland counties on 29 October 2020.¹⁰ The Public Health Agency has decided to issue these local general recommendations in consultation with the counties' infection control physicians (*smittskyddsläkare*), the County Administrative Boards (*Länsstyrelserna*) and the regional healthcare sectors. The local recommendations vary slightly depending on the local situation but mainly include calls to avoid public transport and if possible, avoid physical contact with persons outside of one's household, that also includes calls for avoiding local businesses, sports halls and work from home if possible. All organisations and businesses shall take measures to minimise the numbers of visitors at the same time. The local recommendations followed the changes of the Public Health Agency's general recommendations on 19 October 2020, mentioned above.¹¹ On 31 October, the local

⁵ Sweden, Swedish Police (*Polisen*) *Additional restrictions at gatherings and events (Ytterligare begränsningar vid sammankomster och tillställningar)* 27 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁶ Sweden, Swedish Police (*Polisen*), *Further limited possibilities for public gatherings and public events (Ytterligare begränsade möjligheter till allmänna sammankomster och tillställningar)*, accessed 10 November 2020, [available here](#)

⁷ Sweden, Ministry of Culture (*Kulturdepartementet*), Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), *No changes of the restrictions of public gatherings and public events (Ingen ändring i begränsningen av allmänna sammankomster och offentliga tillställningar)*, press release, 9 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁸ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), *Decision on stricter general advice in Uppsala county (Beslut om skärpta allmänna råd i Uppsala län)*, 20 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁹ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), *Decision on stricter general advice in Skåne county (Beslut om skärpta allmänna råd i Skåne län)*, 27 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹⁰ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), *Decision on stricter general advice in Stockholm county, Västra Götaland county and Östergötland county (Beslut om skärpta allmänna råd i Stockholm län, Västra Götalands län och Östergötlands län)*, 29 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹¹ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2020) *Change in the recommendations on everyone's responsibility to prevent further spread of the infection covid-19 inter alia (Ändring i föreskrifterna och allmänna råden (HSLF-FS 2020:12) om allas ansvar att förhindra smitta av covid-19 m.m.)*, 19 October 2020, [available here](#)

recommendations for Uppsala¹² and Skåne¹³ counties apply until 17 November, while the recommendations for the other three counties apply until 19 November 2020.¹⁴ As a consequence of the local recommendations the cities and municipalities in the five counties have in some cases decided on different complementary measures. For example, the City of Gothenburg has closed down all city-run public swimming pools, gyms and skating rinks during the period 31 October – 19 November 2020.¹⁵ Linköping City has closed its art gallery, all municipal museums and libraries as well as meeting halls. The city is also closing down the daily activities included in the social and care sectors. Furthermore, all youth activities are shut down, except those connected to the primary school as are swimming pools. All public events are also cancelled.¹⁶ On the other hand, the City of Stockholm states that the Public Health Agency's decision on stricter local advice does not mean that the city's public activities will be shut down. However, the Swedish Public Health Agency urges Stockholm's inhabitants to take personal responsibility and refrain from visiting such environments. Libraries, museums, sports halls and the like focus on guaranteeing social distancing among their visitors.¹⁷

In Sweden, on 23 October 2020, the government stated that it will ban public dance events for over 50 persons in order to deal with the overcrowding that prevails in nightclubs.¹⁸ The government has also decided on a new exemption from the Ordinance on the ban of arranging public gatherings and events, which will enable public gatherings and public events with a maximum of 300 seated participants. These changes enter into force on 1 November 2020. However, many counties have decided to keep the maximum participants at 50 persons under the current circumstances.¹⁹

In **Sweden**, the government has worked towards a more sustainable and targeted regulation that allows for public gathering and events, without increasing the risk of spreading the infection. Thus, the government has assigned the Public Health Agency to analyse the need of and conditions for further changes in the Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events.²⁰ The assignment focuses on both the general restrictions of the number of persons allowed at public

¹² Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), the stricter general advice for Uppsala county are extended (*De skärpta allmänna råden för Uppsala län förlängs*), 29 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹³ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Decision on stricter general advice in Skåne county (*Beslut om skärpta allmänna råd i Skåne län*), 27 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹⁴ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Decision on stricter general advice in Stockholm county, Västra Götaland county and Östergötland county (*Beslut om skärpta allmänna råd i Stockholm län, Västra Götalands län och Östergötlands län*), 29 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹⁵ Sweden, City of Gothenburg (*Göteborg Stad*), Swimming pools, gyms and public ice skating are closed due to the stricter local advice (*Simhallar, gym och allmänhetens skridskoåkning stänger på grund av striktare råd*), 30 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹⁶ Sweden, Linköping municipality (*Linköpings kommun*), Press meeting due to the prevailing corona situation (*Pressträff med anledning av rådande coronaläge*), 30 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹⁷ Sweden, City of Stockholm (*Stockholm Stad*), Stricter general advice in Stockholm (*Skärpta allmänna råd i Stockholm*), 30 October 2020, [available here](#)

¹⁸ Sweden, Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events (*Förordning [2020:114] om förbud mot att hålla allmänna sammankomster och offentliga tillställningar*), section 1, 1 November 2020, [available here](#)

¹⁹ See for example, Sweden, County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland (*Länsstyrelsen i Västra Götaland*) The County Administrative Board decides on a continued restriction of 50 persons in Västra Götaland (*Länsstyrelsen beslutar om en fortsatt begränsning på 50 personer i Västra Götaland*), 29 October 2020, [available here](#) and Sweden, County Administrative Board of Uppsala County (*Länsstyrelsen i Uppsala län*), Continued restriction of 50 persons after decision by the County Administrative Board (*Fortsatt publikttak på 50 personer efter beslut från länsstyrelsen*), 29 October 2020, [available here](#)

²⁰ Sweden, Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events (*Förordning [2020:14] om förbud mot att hålla allmänna sammankomster och offentliga tillställningar*), 11 March 2020, [available here](#)

gatherings and events and new and current exemptions from these general restrictions.²¹ The authority shall analyse the possibilities to make exemptions for, among other things, sports activities outdoors, flea markets, demonstrations and amusement parks. The assignment shall first be submitted to the government on 1 November and 1 December 2020. Thereafter, the assignment shall be presented by the 15th every other month, starting from January 2021, or more frequently given the epidemiological situation, as long as the Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events is in force.²²

In **Sweden**, the government allocated 75 million SEK (€7.2 million) to public assembly halls (*samlingslokaler*) in the extra Budget Bill presented in September 2020. The funding will be distributed in the form of a new funding for organisations via the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (*Boverket*).²³ The measure is taken to soften the economic consequences of the pandemic for the public assembly halls. Furthermore, the Budget Bill proposed an increased funding of 50 million SEK (€4.8 million) to guarantee that the new funding is available also in 2021. The funding shall be distributed among associations, foundations and national associations across the country that meet the funding requirements. The government claims that public assembly halls are an important part of a democratic society and they must have halls and places to carry out their activities.²⁴

1.3 Freedom of movement

In **Sweden**, there are no restrictions of the freedom of movement that are legally binding. However, the local recommendations mentioned above may include recommendations against “unnecessary” travelling and against using public transportation.

In Sweden, a temporary ban to entry to the European Union via Sweden is in force to mitigate the effects of the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the outbreak. The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It was subsequently extended following European Commission recommendations. In August, the Government decided to further extend the entry ban until 31 October 2020.²⁵ The entry ban has the same exemptions Sweden follows the Commission’s guidelines concerning the entry ban as well as the list of exceptions defined by the Commission. Persons who have temporary or permanent residence permits in Sweden are also exempted from

²¹ Sweden, Ministry of Culture (*Kulturdepartementet*), Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*) (2020) Assignment to analyse the possibilities for more arrangements without spread of disease (*Uppdrag att analysera möjligheterna för fler smittsäkra arrangemang*), press release, 14 October 2020, [available here](#)

²² Sweden, Ministry of Culture (*Kulturdepartementet*), Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*) (2020) Assignment to analyse the possibilities for more arrangements without spread of disease (*Uppdrag att analysera möjligheterna för fler smittsäkra arrangemang*), press release, 14 October 2020, [available here](#)

²³ Sweden, Ministry of Culture (*Kulturdepartementet*) (2020) Distribution of funding to public assembly halls for the civil society organisations (*Fördelning av bidrag till samlingslokaler för föreningslivet*), press release, 2 October 2020, [available here](#)

²⁴ Sweden, Ministry of Culture (*Kulturdepartementet*) (2020) Distribution of funding to public assembly halls for the civil society organisations (*Fördelning av bidrag till samlingslokaler för föreningslivet*), press release, 2 October 2020, [available here](#)

²⁵ Sweden, Ministry of Justice (*Justitiedepartementet*) (2020) Extension of temporary entry ban to Sweden until 31 October 2020 (*Förlängning av det tillfälliga inreseförbudet till Sverige till och med den 31 oktober 2020*), press release, 27 August, 2020, [available here](#)

the entry ban if the purpose of their entry is to return home.²⁶ To be more exact, the entry ban does not apply to people who: 1) are an EEA citizen or a citizen of Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican City; 2) have long-term resident status in Sweden or another EU Member State; 3) have a residence permit in Sweden or another EEA state, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican City; 4) have a national visa for Sweden or a national visa valid longer than three months in another EEA State, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican City; 5) have family ties as specified in Chapter 3a, Section 2, first paragraph, or Chapter 5, Section 3, first paragraph, points 1–4, or Section 3a of the Aliens Act (*Utlänningslag [2005:716]*)²⁷ to a person covered by any of points 1–4 or to a Swedish citizen, or who lives in Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand or Uruguay. (This list of countries is continually being revised on an EU-level, and has been changed multiple times.) In addition, the entry ban does not apply to people with an essential need or function in Sweden.²⁸

In Sweden, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Utrikesdepartementet*) warns against non-necessary travels countries outside of the E.U., E.E.S. and Schengen until 15 November 2020.²⁹ From 5 November 2020, the warning against unnecessary travelling to Lithuania will be lifted. In previous decisions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has withdrawn its warning against unnecessary travelling to Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, the Vatican City, and Austria. The warning against unnecessary travelling to Estonia, Ireland and Latvia is extended until 18 November 2020.³⁰

In relation to freedom of movement, the Minister of Health and Social Affairs has stated that the government is working on a temporary pandemic act aimed at decreasing the spread of the infection.³¹ With the current legislation, the government can only regulate public gatherings, for example, demonstrations, concerts or sports events. According to the Minister, the government wishes to extend its power so it can regulate the number of passengers using public transport and the opening hours and numbers of visitors of stores. When asked when the mentioned temporary legislation may enter into force, the Minister of Health and Social Affairs replied that the development of the new legislation must be done with great respect for the fact the it will introduce further

²⁶ Sweden, Ministry of Justice (*Justitiedepartementet*), Questions and answers – temporary entry ban to EU via Sweden, 29 October 2020, [available here](#)

²⁷ Sweden, Aliens Act (*Utlänningslag [2005:716]*), 29 September 2005, [available here](#)

²⁸ Sweden, Ministry of Justice (*Justitiedepartementet*), Questions and answers – temporary entry ban to EU via Sweden, 29 October 2020, [available here](#)

²⁹ Sweden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Utrikesdepartementet*) (2020) Changes of warnings from non-necessary travels to all countries (*Ändringar av avrådan från icke nödvändiga resor till alla länder*), 14 September 2020, [available here](#)

³⁰ Sweden, Sweden Abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' advice against travelling due to the new Corona virus (UD:s reseavrådan med anledning av nya coronaviruset), accessed 5 November 2020, [available here](#)

³¹ Sweden, Dagens Nyheter (daily newspaper), The government: New act to limit crowds in public transport (*Regeringen: Ny lag ska begränsa folksamlingar i kollektivtrafiken*), in 19 October 2020, [available here](#)

conditions of the freedom of movement, which is a constitutionally protected freedom. Consequently, the new legislation will not be in place until the summer of 2021.³²

2 Implications of Covid-19 and measures to contain it on specific social rights

Please provide information on legislation/measures taken by the government/public authorities, between 1 September – 31 October 2020, in response to COVID-19 that have impacted negatively on relevant social rights with respect to two of the following areas of life: education, work, health care and housing.

HEALTHCARE

In **Sweden**, the outbreak of covid-19 led to many cancelled appointments and treatments, which in turn has brought about a pent-up need for healthcare and medical services that must be addressed.³³ Thus, the government instructed the Swedish Social Insurance Agency to analyse the outbreak, and how its effects have impacted the national sickness insurance (*sjukförsäkring*) and the right to compensation and support for persons on sick leave.³⁴ The changes that has been reported in earlier Corona reports, and that are included under the heading Work in this report, are the introduction of benefits for persons that belong to an at-risk group or who have to refrain from working in order to avoid infecting a close relative belonging to an at-risk group; benefits for persons who are disease carriers or who lives with a disease carrier; suspensions of deduction from sick pay during the qualifying period, and compensation to employers for the additional cost of sick pay. Furthermore, the requirement to submit a doctor's certificate to the Social Insurance Agency or the employer from day 8 is temporarily removed. There is also a temporarily extension of the possibility to postpone the assessment against jobs that are a normal part of the labour market from day 181 as is generally required.³⁵

Furthermore, the authority is commissioned to analyse how the changes in the regulations concerning sick pay introduced due to COVID-19 has affected the granting of sick pay, that is have the granting of sick pay increased, remained the same or decreased due to the changes in question. In addition, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency must take measures aimed at ensuring the right conditions for long-term monitoring of COVID-19-related cases within the entire social insurance system. The aim is to

³² Sweden, Dagens Nyheter (daily newspaper), The government: New act to limit crowds in public transport (*Regeringen: Ny lag ska begränsa folksamlingar i kollektivtrafiken*), 19 October 2020, [available here](#)

³³ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (Socialdepartementet), Assignment to analyse and follow-up COVID-19' effects on the national sickness insurance (Uppdrag att analysera och följa effekter som covid-19 har på sjukförsäkringen), 3 September 2020, [available here](#)

³⁴ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (Socialdepartementet), Swedish Social Insurance Agency to analyse how COVID-19 affects the sickness insurance (*Försäkringskassan ska analysera hur covid-19 påverkar sjukförsäkringen*), press release, 3 September 2020, [available here](#)

³⁵ Sweden, Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan), The coronavirus/covid-19 – applicable regulations, accessed 5 November 2020, [available here](#)

ensure that persons who suffer long-term effects of COVID-19 shall receive the support they need. The results of the review shall be presented to the government by 1 April 2022.³⁶

In **Sweden**, the government proposed to allocate an extra 4 billion SEK (€388 million) to the regions in 2021 and 2022 to support the recovery of the regional healthcare systems, and meet the pent-up need of healthcare and medical services within the regions.³⁷ The funding may also, when needed, be used to COVID-19-related healthcare.

In **Sweden**, the National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*) is tasked with developing a model for the municipalities' and regions' rehabilitation measures to discover, assess and treat persons who suffer from long-term complications after a COVID-19 infection.³⁸ In a press release, the Minister of Health and Social Affairs stated that cognitive disabilities, long-term pain, and post-traumatic stress syndromes are among the complications affecting individuals who have been infected with a severe covid-19 infection. Thus, it is important that these persons' rehabilitation is adjusted to the current level of knowledge. The model for the municipalities' and regions' rehabilitation measures to discover, assess and treat persons who suffer from long-term complications after a COVID-19 infection shall be presented to the government by 31 October 2021.³⁹

In **Sweden**, the government proposed two billion SEK (€194 million) to continued testing and infectivity tracing in the regions.⁴⁰ During 2020, the government has allocated nearly 7 billion SEK (€679 million) to support large-scale testing in the entire country and to encourage active infectivity tracing. Currently, over 100,000 tests for active covid-19 infection have been performed per week. However, the testing and infectivity tracing must continue in 2021.⁴¹ All testing for COVID-19 is organised in accordance with regional and local guidelines. This means that there are a number of ways to organise the testing since there are 21 regions and 290 municipalities in Sweden. The Public Health Agency of Sweden recommends adults and school-aged children (including children in preschool class) with symptoms of COVID-19 to take a PCR test in order to find out if they have a current COVID-19 infection.⁴² Preschool-aged children should be tested in a situation where the number of cases is increasing locally. The authority also recommends testing to take place in cases of contact tracing or screening. The test should be taken even if the persons in question don't have any symptoms of COVID-19. In a situation where the number of suspected cases exceeds the capacity of healthcare services for testing, a special prioritisation is recommended. There are two different types

³⁶Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Swedish Social Insurance Agency to analyse how COVID-19 affects the sickness insurance (*Försäkringskassan ska analysera hur covid-19 påverkar sjukförsäkringen*), press release, 3 September 2020, [available here](#)

³⁷ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), 4 billion SEK for handling postponed healthcare and medical services (*4 miljarder kronor för hantering av uppskjuten vård*), press release, 7 September 2020, [available here](#)

³⁸ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Strengthened rehabilitation process for long-term complications after COVID-19 (*Stärkt rehabiliteringsprocess vid långvariga komplikationer efter covid-19*), press release, 4 September 2020, [available here](#)

³⁹ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Assignment to develop a process model for rehabilitation measures for patients with long-term complications after COVID-19 (*Uppdrag att ta fram en processmodell för rehabiliteringsinsatser för patienter med långvariga komplikationer efter covid-19*), government assignment, 8 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁴⁰ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Billions to continue the fight against COVID-19 in 2021 (*Miljardbelopp för att fortsatt bekämpa covid-19 under 2021*), press release, 21 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁴¹ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Billions continue the fight against covid-19 in 2021 (*Miljardbelopp för att fortsatt bekämpa covid-19 under 2021*), press release, 21 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁴² Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), FAQ about COVID-19 – Testing and Treatment, accessed 5 November 2020, [available here](#)

of tests for COVID-19. One test can show if you have a current infection and the other shows if you have had a COVID-19 infection and have developed antibodies. A PCR-test shows if a person has an active coronavirus infection or has recently had an infection with COVID-19. This test detects the virus's genetic material. The test is taken in the early stages of the infection. An antibody test shows if a person has previously been infected with COVID-19 and has developed antibodies in response to the virus. It can show if a person entirely or partly has developed a protection against COVID-19 after an infection. The Public Health Agency recommends that antibody tests are taken by health care providers. There is also a type of antibody self test available, which can be taken and analysed by the individual at home. However, the Public Health Agency advises against using self tests for COVID-19.

In **Sweden**, the government proposed a particular crisis support targeted to healthcare staff, and staff within the elderly care sector who have worked during the first peak of COVID-19. The measure includes a total of 500 million SEK (€48 million) for 2020.⁴³ The crisis support shall include conversational therapy, trauma support, inter alia. According to the government, the pandemic has led to substantial strains on healthcare and elderly care, which in turn has meant that the staff has worked long hours and with heavy workloads. Consequently, the risk of bad mental health within this group has increased.⁴⁴

In **Sweden**, the municipalities continue to have very limited possibilities to offer all persons with disabilities who have the right to daily activities (*daglig verksamhet*), their ordinary support during the pandemic.⁴⁵ Against this background, the National Board of Health and Welfare is instructed by the government to survey and analyse the consequences for persons who have been granted the such daily activities. Daily activities are a kind of measure aimed at supporting equal living conditions and full participation in society for persons with certain disabilities. The Minister of Health and Social Affairs stated that it is important to review how the pandemic has affected the possibilities of persons with disabilities to live like other persons.⁴⁶ The analysis shall be presented to the government by 31 March 2021.⁴⁷

⁴³ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Crisis support to staff within healthcare and elderly care who have worked with COVID-19 (*Krisstöd till personal inom vård och äldreomsorg som arbetat med covid-19*), press release, 13 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁴⁴ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Crisis support to staff within healthcare and elderly care who have worked with COVID-19 (*Krisstöd till personal inom vård och äldreomsorg som arbetat med covid-19*), press release, 13 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁴⁵ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Survey of the consequences for daily activities within the Act on support and service for certain persons with disabilities due to COVID-19 (*Kartläggning av konsekvenser för daglig verksamhet inom LSS till följd av covid-19*), press release, 15 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁴⁶ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Survey of the consequences for daily activities within the Act on support and service for certain persons with disabilities due to COVID-19 (*Kartläggning av konsekvenser för daglig verksamhet inom LSS till följd av covid-19*), press release, 15 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁴⁷ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Survey of the consequences for daily activities within the Act on support and service for certain persons with disabilities due to COVID-19 (*Kartläggning av konsekvenser för daglig verksamhet inom LSS till följd av covid-19*), press release, 15 October 2020, [available here](#)

WORK

In **Sweden**, the government proposed an extension of the measures introduced due to COVID-19 in the area of sick pay and for temporary parental allowance.⁴⁸ The measures were first introduced during the spring and summer of 2020 with the aim to decrease the spreading of the infection, lessen the burden of the healthcare system, strengthen the economic security and soften the consequences for employers. Measures have also been taken that enable parents to stay at home with their children in the event of a shutdown of the schools. The government suggests that the following measures shall be extended until 31 December 2020:

- Suspension of the deduction from sick pay during the qualifying period. This means that the benefits or allowances will begin from the first sick day with a flat rate of 804 SEK (€ 78)
- Allowance for the self-employed for the 14 first sick days with a flat rate of 804 SEK (€ 78) per day
- Compensation to employers for the part of the sick pay that extends the normal level
- Adjourned requirements of medical certificates from the 8th day to the 15th day for sick employees
- Possibility of temporary parental allowance in case of school shutdowns.⁴⁹ If schools are closed, all guardians working in areas of importance for a functioning society have the right to municipal care for their children. Other parents have to stay at home to take care of their children and are thus eligible for temporary parental allowance.⁵⁰ The areas that are considered of importance for a functioning society were determined in March 2020. They are: 1) Energy supply; 2) Financial services; 3) Trade and industry; 4) Healthcare and care; 5) Information and communication; 6) Municipal technical supply; 7) Food production; 8) Military defense; 9) Public administration; 10) Protection and security; 11) Social insurance; and 12) Transports.⁵¹ The categories are not in order of priority.

In **Sweden**, the Minister of Employment and the Minister of Culture, responsible for youth issues, hosted a digital meeting with several organisations working with youths concerning measures to counteract the youth unemployment.⁵² The pandemic has impacted the labour market, which especially affects youths since they have little or no work experience and often insecure employments. The government has taken measures to address this, by adding 100 million SEK (€9.6 million) to create jobs in the municipalities for youths.⁵³ The government has also decided to extend the assignment to

⁴⁸ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Extension of corona-related measures in the national social insurance (*Förlängning av coronarelaterade åtgärder i socialförsäkringen*), press release, 6 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁴⁹ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Extension of corona-related measures in the national social insurance (*Förlängning av coronarelaterade åtgärder i socialförsäkringen*), press release, 6 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁵⁰ Sweden, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (*Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap, MSB*), Regulations for the care of children with guardians working in areas important for a functioning society (*Föreskrifter för omsorg av barn med vårdnadshavare i samhällsviktig verksamhet*), 26 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁵¹ Sweden, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (*Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap, MSB*), Regulations for the care of children with guardians working in areas important for a functioning society (*Föreskrifter för omsorg av barn med vårdnadshavare i samhällsviktig verksamhet*), 26 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁵² Sweden, Ministry of Employment (*Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet*), Ministry of Culture (*Kulturdepartementet*), XX och XX i möte om ungdomsarbetslösheten (*XX and XX in meeting on youth unemployment*), news article, 29 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁵³ Sweden, Ministry of Employment (*Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet*), 280 million to summer jobs and jobs for youths (280 miljoner avsätts för sommarjobb och jobb för unga), press release, 2 July 2020, [available here](#)

the Delegation for youths and newly arrived persons to work (*Delegationen för unga och nyanlända till arbete, DUA*), until 31 December 2021). The government has tasked the delegation with promoting collaboration between the municipalities and the Swedish Public Employment Service and also developing of new forms of collaboration. The delegation shall also follow the ongoing work with the reform of the Public Employment Service and continuously adapt its activities in order to create good conditions for collaboration also after reform. The overarching purpose is to contribute to reduced youth unemployment and streamlining the establishment of newly arrived person in the labour market.⁵⁴ To mitigate the pandemic's negative consequences for young people's opportunities in the labour market, the government has also in the Budget bill for 2021 proposed that the employer contributions for employees who have reached the age of 18 but not 23 shall be reduced. The proposed reduction applies from April 2021 to March 2023 and entails a fee level of 19.76 percent on salaries up to SEK 25,000 per month. The sectors that have been hardest hit by the crisis, such as the service sector, employs relatively many young people as compared to other sectors. The proposed measure is therefore expected to help restarting the activity in these sectors as they will see relatively large reductions of their labour costs.⁵⁵

In **Sweden**, in September 2020, the share of youths seeking a job and registered at the Public Employment Service as unemployed (68,782 persons) was 12.7 % of the registered workforce, an increase with 39.6 % in comparison with the same month in 2019. The situation varies among the different counties. Overall, the share was highest in Gävleborg County, (18.4 %), and lowest in Halland County (10.1 %). The differences between young men and women are also noticeable. At the end of September, 14.6 % of the young men were registered at the Public Employment Service as unemployed compared to 10.7 % of the young women. The differences between young men and women existed before the pandemic. In 2019, the share of registered young women was 7.6 % in comparison to 10.5 % among young men. Accordingly, the differences are not an effect of the pandemic. The government has taken several measures to address the increased youth unemployment. In **Sweden**, the government has stated that there is an increased need to disseminate information about the importance of a systematically improving the work environment also during the current pandemic. Example of work-related risks are working under more stressful conditions, heavy workloads, increased worry among employees, and the adaptation for employees to work from home.⁵⁶ Consequently, the government has assigned the Swedish Work Environment Authority with the task to develop information measures to increase the knowledge among employers on particular risks in the organisational and social work environment as a consequence of COVID-19.⁵⁷ The information measures shall mainly focus on risks in the work environment for healthcare and care staff, and for employees who work from home.

⁵⁴ Sweden, Delegation for youths and newly arrived persons to work (*Delegationen för unga och nyanlända till arbete, DUA*), The Delegation's assignment (*Delegationens uppdrag*), accessed 5 November 2020, [available here](#)

⁵⁵ Sweden, Ministry of Finance (*Finansdepartementet*), press release, 16 September 2020, <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2020/09/nedsatta-arbetsgivaravgifter-for-1923-aringar/>

⁵⁶ Sweden, Ministry of Employment (*Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet*), Government assignment on work environment during the COVID-19 pandemic (*Regeringsuppdrag om arbetsmiljön under covid-19-pandemin*), press release, 25 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁵⁷ Sweden, Ministry of Employment (*Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet*), Assignment on special informational measures on work environment due to the spreading of the disease COVID-19 (*Uppdrag om särskilda informationsinsatser om arbetsmiljö med anledning av spridningen av sjukdomen covid-19*), Government assignment, 29 September 2020, [available here](#)

EDUCATION

In **Sweden**, education in preschools and the elementary school has continued throughout the pandemic. According to the Public Health Authority (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) it is essential to find a balance between children's right to education and the reduction of the spread of COVID-19.⁵⁸ The authority's statistics and analyses show that the spread of COVID-19 within elementary and preschools has been minimal, which is why the schools have remained open.⁵⁹

In **Sweden**, the Swedish National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*) reaffirms that a principal may decide to close preschools, elementary schools and upper secondary schools because of the spread of COVID-19, if the one of the following requirements are met:⁶⁰

- if such a large proportion of the staff is absent due to the coronavirus that it is impossible to continue the teaching;
- if the infection control physician states that it is necessary in order to prevent the spread of infection;
- if the school is in an area that the Public Health Agency has decided to be cordoned off
- if the school closing is recommended by the Swedish Public Health Agency
- if the government has decided that school units shall be temporarily closed at national, regional or municipal level, with support of the Act on temporary closure of operation of the school area in the event of extraordinary events in peacetime.⁶¹

In **Sweden**, upper secondary education was conducted online throughout the spring semester 2020.⁶² According to the Public Health Agency, the general opinion is that the online education worked well.⁶³ Nevertheless, since the cases of COVID-19 decreased during the summer, it was decided that the upper secondary education could go back to normal.⁶⁴ However, the Public Health Agency states that upper secondary school pupils who have, or live with a person who currently has COVID-19 cannot come to school.⁶⁵ This restriction does not apply for younger pupils.⁶⁶ As a solution, the upper

⁵⁸ See for instance, Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), COVID-19 in children and young persons. A knowledge overview (*Covid-19 hos barn och unga: en kunskapsöversikt*), 29 May 2020, [available here](#)

⁵⁹ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Information to preschools, elementary schools, and upper secondary schools about COVID-19 (*Information till förskolor, grundskolor och gymnasieskolor om covid-19*), 16 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁶⁰ Sweden, Swedish National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*), Rules for preschools and schools that are open, closed or have been closed during the corona pandemic (*Regler för förskolor och skolor som har varit öppna, stänga eller varit stängda under coronapandemin*), 19 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁶¹ Sweden, Ordinance on education and other pedagogical activities during the spread of a certain infection (*Förordning [2020:115] om utbildning på annan pedagogisk verksamhet vid spridning av viss smitta*) section 3, 13 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁶² Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), The upper secondary schools many open for the autumn semester (*Gymnasieskolorna kan öppna till höstterminen*), 29 May 2020, [available here](#)

⁶³ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), The upper secondary schools many open for the autumn semester (*Gymnasieskolorna kan öppna till höstterminen*), 29 May 2020, [available here](#)

⁶⁴ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), The upper secondary schools many open for the autumn semester (*Gymnasieskolorna kan öppna till höstterminen*), 29 May 2020, [available here](#)

⁶⁵ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), If you or someone in the family has fallen ill (*Om du eller någon i familjen har blivit sjuk*), 6 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁶⁶ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), If you or someone in the family has fallen ill (*Om du eller någon i familjen har blivit sjuk*), 6 October 2020, [available here](#)

secondary school pupil may participate in the teaching online, if such a possibility is offered by the school.

In **Sweden**, all university education was conducted online until the end of the Spring semester 2020.⁶⁷ However, the Public Health Agency recommended that the universities should be considered as general workplaces at the start of the Autumn semester. Consequently, the universities were allowed to conduct on-campus education again.⁶⁸ However, universities should follow the same recommendations as other workplaces. Both staff and students at the universities should work from home as much as possible, keep social distance, maintain good hand hygiene, and stay home at any symptom of COVID-19.⁶⁹ Nevertheless, many programs and courses are still carried out online since it is a general recommendation to work from home whenever possible.⁷⁰ Some universities have on-campus education for a maximum of 50 individuals per group following the Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events.⁷¹ As mentioned above, on 23 October 2020, the government decided on a new exemption from the Ordinance on the ban of arranging public gatherings and events, which will enable public gatherings and public events with a maximum of 300 seated participants. These changes enter into force on 1 November 2020. However, many counties have decided to keep the maximum participants at 50 persons under the current circumstances.⁷²

In other words, the education varies a lot between and within the different universities.⁷³ Since some programs and courses are taught on campus at some universities more students have returned to regular classes and also engaged in parties and other gatherings in large groups. Consequentially, there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases among students at some Swedish universities. The Minister of Education and Research commented this development in a speech, stressing the fact that although some classes takes place on campuses, the students are still responsible to act in a manner that minimises the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁴

In **Sweden**, students have a chance to apply to universities on the basis of their results in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (*högskoleprovet*). This is an important chance for students whose grades are not high

⁶⁷ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Universities and upper secondary schools are now requested to conduct its education via distance learning (*Lärosäten och gymnasieskolor uppmanas nu att bedriva distansundervisning*), 17 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁶⁸ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Information to universities and other forms of higher education about COVID-19 (*Information till lärosäten och annan högre utbildning om covid-19*), 5 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁶⁹ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Information to universities and other forms of higher education about COVID-19 (*Information till lärosäten och annan högre utbildning om covid-19*), 5 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁷⁰ Sweden, Dagens Nyheter (daily newspaper) *This is how different the rules are between the universities this autumn*, (*Så olika är reglerna på universiteten i höst*), 31 July 2020, [available here](#)

⁷¹ Sweden, Ordinance on the ban on arranging public gatherings and public events (*Förordning [2020:114] om förbud mot att hålla allmänna sammankomster och offentliga tillställningar*), section 1, 29 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁷² See for example, Sweden, County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland (*Länsstyrelsen i Västra Götaland*) The County Administrative Board decides on a continued restriction of 50 persons in Västra Götaland (*Länsstyrelsen beslutar om en fortsatt begränsning på 50 personer i Västra Götaland*), 29 October 2020, [available here](#) and Sweden, County Administrative Board of Uppsala County (*Länsstyrelsen i Uppsala län*), Continued restriction of 50 persons after decision by the County Administrative Board (*Fortsatt publiktak på 50 personer efter beslut från länsstyrelsen*), 29 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁷³ Sweden, Dagens Nyheter (daily newspaper) *This is how different the rules are between the universities this autumn*, (*Så olika är reglerna på universiteten i höst*), 31 July 2020, [available here](#)

⁷⁴ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), Press meeting with XX and the Public Health Agency (*Pressträff med XX och folkhälsomyndigheten*), press release, 09 October, 2020, [available here](#)

enough for them to be accepted into the study program of their choice. The test is approximately 8 hours long and tests the presumptive student's skills in Math, English and Swedish.⁷⁵ The test can only be taken twice a year.⁷⁶ Due to the pandemic, the test that was supposed to take place during the Spring was cancelled.⁷⁷ The Scholastic Aptitude Test that was supposed to take place in August was also cancelled since it was impossible to arrange test facilities that allowed for social distancing.⁷⁸ Instead, the government decided to prolong the validity on the Scholastic Aptitude Test results from five to eight years in order increase the number of persons who could use their previous test results when applying for university.⁷⁹ At the same time, the government stated that it was essential that the test is carried out, but under safe circumstances.⁸⁰ As a solution, the government decided to transfer the responsibility for arranging the Scholastic Aptitude Test from the universities to the Council for Higher Education (*Universitets- och Högskolerådet, UHR*).⁸¹ The government also assigned a national coordinator for the Scholastic Aptitude Tests that should assist the Council for Higher Education.⁸² The national coordinator and the Council for Higher Education were given a government assignment to identify how to arrange three Scholastic Aptitude Tests per year during 2021–2023 under the Corona pandemic.⁸³ The Council for Higher Education finally organised a Scholastic Aptitude Test on 25 October 2020. However, only individuals who did not have a valid test result were able to take the test.⁸⁴

In **Sweden**, the government has stated that the transition from education to work and vice versa is insufficient. This means that it is both difficult for persons who have finished their education (regardless of level) to enter the labour market and for persons who are working to start studying again. This was also the case before the outbreak of COVID-19. To facilitate such transitions the government has decided that persons that cannot find any kind of employment without further

⁷⁵ Sweden, Council for Higher Education (*Universitets- och högskolerådet, UHR*), Tips on preparations for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (*Tips på förberedelser inför högskoleprovet*), 24 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁷⁶ Sweden, Council for Higher Education (*Universitets- och högskolerådet, UHR*), The most essential information about the Scholastic Aptitude Test (*Det viktigaste om högskoleprovet*), [available here](#)

⁷⁷ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), This is how the government works to ensure that the Scholastic Aptitude Test can be carried out and to increase the number of students (*Så här jobbar regeringen för att högskoleprovet ska kunna genomföra och för fler utbildningsplatser*), 8 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁷⁸ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), This is how the government works to ensure that the Scholastic Aptitude Test can be carried out and to increase the number of students (*Så här jobbar regeringen för att högskoleprovet ska kunna genomföras och för fler utbildningsplatser*), 8 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁷⁹ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), Extended validity for results on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (*Förlängd giltighetsperiod för resultat på högskoleprovet*), press release, 6 August 2020, [available here](#)

⁸⁰ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), Government decision about the Scholastic Aptitude Test (*Regeringsbeslut om högskoleprovet*), press release, 18 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁸¹ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), This is how the government works to ensure that the Scholastic Aptitude Test can be carried out and to increase the number of students (*Så jobbar regeringen för att högskoleprovet ska kunna genomföra och för fler utbildningsplatser*), 12 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁸² Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), National Coordinator to work for the Scholastic Aptitude Test in the autumn (*Nationell samordnare ska arbeta för högskoleprov i höst*), press release, 8 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁸³ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research, (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), The Council for Higher Education shall report on measures for arranging the Scholastic Aptitude Test 2021 (*Universitets –och högskolerådet ska redovisa åtgärder för att anordna högskoleprovet 2021*), press release, 8 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁸⁴ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*), Better conditions for Scholastic Aptitude Tests for those who do not have exam results (*Bättre förutsättningar för högskoleprovet för de som inte har provresultat*), press release, 26 August 2020 [available here](#)

studies may keep their benefits from the Public Employment Service while they are studying, if the authority considers it necessary in the individual case.⁸⁵

3 Negative impact on social rights for vulnerable groups including measures to address this

Please select and provide information concerning two groups whose social rights were particularly negatively impacted with respect to developments/measures adopted in relation to COVID-19, between 1 September – 31 October 2020. For each of the two groups selected – highlight which social rights were most impacted. Also, identify any government and related measures that were introduced to alleviate the negative impact on these groups.

In Sweden, persons who live in residential care homes have been especially impacted by COVID-19. On 30 March 2020, a national ban was imposed on visits to residential care homes in order to protect elderly persons from COVID-19.⁸⁶ Nevertheless, many individuals living in residential care homes were infected and died of COVID-19. In April 2020, the government assigned the Health and Social Care Inspectorate (*Inspektionen för vård och omsorg, Ivo*) with the task to develop risk analyzes and analyze and utilize the authority's observations into learning examples in order to support elderly care to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.. The Health and Social Care Inspectorate has also inspected the quality of the healthcare and care of 1,700 different residential care homes. These inspections are initiated by the Inspectorate, which has the responsibility to initiate such inspections. The results of the inspection that was presented on 7 July 2020. The report showed that the residential care homes in 40 municipalities were particularly severely hit by COVID-19, and that 70 % of all the persons who have died in COVID-19 in the country's residential care homes lived in these 40 municipalities (out of 290).⁸⁷ The investigation also showed that 90 residential care homes managed the coronavirus outbreak so insufficiently that the Health and Social Care Inspectorate found it necessary to inspect these residential care homes further. These inspections are supposed to be presented sometime during the autumn of 2020.⁸⁸ Statistics from the Public Health Agency show that the majority who have died in COVID-19 have been 70 years or older.⁸⁹ More specifically, statistics from the National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*) show that out of the 5,900 persons who have died because of COVID-19, approximately 2,200 persons lived in some sort of residential care home.⁹⁰

⁸⁵ Sweden, Ministry of Employment (*Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet*), More unemployed individuals will be able to study while keeping their benefits (*Fler arbetslösa ska kunna studera med bibehållen ersättning*), press release, 28 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁸⁶ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Visit ban on residential care homes (*Nationellt försöksförbud på äldreboenden*) press release, 31 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁸⁷ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Inspection of residential care homes presented (*Granskning av äldreboende presenterad*), press release, 7 July 2020, [available here](#)

⁸⁸ Sweden, Swedish Health and Social Care Inspectorate (*Inspektionen för vård och omsorg, IVO*) IVO deepens the inspection of care and treatment in residential care homes (*IVO fördjupar granskningen av vård och behandling på särskilda boenden*), 7 July 2020, [available here](#)

⁸⁹ Sweden, Swedish Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), The number of COVID-19 cases in Sweden (*Antal fall av Covid-19 i Sverige*), [available here](#)

⁹⁰ Sweden, National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*), Statistics on COVID-19 among the elderly by type of housing (*Statistik om Covid-19 bland äldre efter boendeform*), 15 October 2020, [available here](#)

Consequently, many elderly individuals' right to the best attainable health have been negatively impacted as a result of the coronavirus.

In **Sweden**, the government has decided to allocate 4 billion SEK (€388 million) to the elderly care in the budget of 2021. This includes an additional 1.7 billion SEK in comparison with last year's budget bill. This means that together with the previous allocations for elderly care, the budget area will have in total have 7.4 billion SEK (€717 million) at its disposal. According to the government, this is an historical investment in the care of the elderly.⁹¹

In **Sweden**, the national ban to visit residential care homes mentioned above⁹² was lifted on 1 October 2020.⁹³ According to the Public Health Agency the ban has impacted older persons negatively, both mentally and physically and many older persons have felt abandoned and isolated because of the visit ban.⁹⁴ The government and the Public Health Agency state that it is not reasonable that one single group should carry such a big burden. At the same time, they stress that the routines for operating elderly care without spreading COVID-19 is firmly established by now. The recommendations from the Public Health Agency now apply for all inhabitants in Sweden.⁹⁵ Consequently, there are neither any special recommendations for persons over 70 years, nor a country-wide ban on visiting care homes.

In Sweden, one group that has been impacted by the increase of youth unemployment mentioned above is the youths who have been granted residence permits due to upper secondary school studies. After these youths have finished their education they have a window of six months to support themselves in order to obtain permanent residence permits.⁹⁶ The terms of the employment must not be inferior to the conditions stipulated in the Swedish Union Agreement (kollektivavtalen).⁹⁷ COVID-19's impact on the labour market has made it more difficult for this group to find such employment and the government is therefore considering certain temporary reliefs, for example, that the youths who have finished their upper secondary education should be have a whole year find employment, instead of current sixth months.⁹⁸ There are no information on whether these adjustments will continue to apply after the pandemic.

⁹¹ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), Historical budget investment for a strengthened elderly care (*Historisk satsning på stärkt äldreomsorg*), press release, 7 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁹² Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), National visit ban to residential care homes (*Nationellt försöksförbud på äldreboenden*), press release, 31 March 2020, [available here](#)

⁹³ Sweden, National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*), The national visit ban ceases on 1 October (*Besöksförbudet upphör 1 oktober*), press release, 15 September 2020, [available here](#)

⁹⁴ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), Consequences for persons 70 years and older of infection control measures against COVID-19 (*Konsekvenser för personer 70 år och äldre av smittskyddsåtgärder mot covid-19*), 22 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁹⁵ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*), As of now, the same recommendations apply to the whole population (*Nu gäller samma allmänna råd för hela befolkningen*), press release, 22 October 2020, [available here](#)

⁹⁶ Sweden, Swedish Migration Agency (*Migrationsverket*), Questions and answers concerning about residence permits concerning the upper secondary education law (*Frågor och svar om uppehållstillstånd för gymnasielagen*), 26 August 2020, [available here](#)

⁹⁷ Sweden, Act on temporary restrictions on the possibility to obtain residence permits in Sweden (*Lag [2016:752] om tillfälliga begränsningar av möjligheten att få uppehållstillstånd i Sverige*), section 16 i and 17, [available here](#)

⁹⁸ Sweden, Ministry of Justice (*Justitiedepartementet*) and Ministry of the Environment (*Miljödepartementet*), The Migration Committee's final report sent out for consultation – the government sees the need for certain adjustments and additions (*Migrationskommitténs betänkande på remiss – regeringen ser behov av vissa justeringar och kompletteringar*), 8 October 2020, [available here](#)