

Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights implications

National vaccine deployment

Sweden

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1 National vaccine deployment – planning and overview of priority groups

Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the **Swedish** government assigned the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) to develop a national plan for vaccination (Nationell plan för vaccination mot Covid-19).¹ The first national plan for vaccination against Covid-19 was issued on 31 August 2020 (hereinafter the national vaccination plan).² The national vaccination plan has continuously been developed and detailed by the Public Health Agency through three additional reports, issued on 4 December 2020 (hereinafter Addendum 1),³ 29 December 2020 (hereinafter Addendum 2)⁴ and 4 February 2021 (hereinafter Addendum 3).⁵

¹ Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*) (2021) '[Uppdrag att ta fram en nationell plan för vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Assignment to develop a national plan on vaccination against Covid-19'), government decision S2020/04550/FS, 20 May 2020.

² Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2020) '[Nationell plan för vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('National plan for vaccination against Covid-19'), 31 August 2020.

³ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2020) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19, med syfte att ge tidigt skydd till personer som har störst risk att bli allvarligt sjuka eller avlida i Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19, with the aim of providing early protection to persons who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19'), 4 December 2020.

⁴ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2020) '[Rekommendation för fortsatt vaccination av prioriterade grupper, med syfte att ge tidigt skydd till personer som har störst risk att bli allvarligt sjuka eller avlida i Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for continued vaccination of priority groups, with the aim of providing early protection to people who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19'), 29 December 2020.

⁵ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021.

Please provide information on the planned phases of vaccination with respect to the groups to be prioritised for vaccination.

Specific groups identified in the national vaccine deployment plan	Date of plan <u>National vaccination plan</u> (31 august 2020) <u>Addendum 1</u> (4 December 2020) <u>Addendum 2</u> (29 December 2020) <u>Addendum 3</u> (4 February 2021)	Date of new/revised plans Updates from the Public Health Agency <u>Gravida-med-andra-riskfaktorer-kan-fa-vaccin-i-fas-3</u> , 27 April 2021 ⁶ <u>'Vaccination mot Covid-19 för särskilda grupper från 16 års ålder'</u> , 29 April 2021 ⁷
<i>older persons; indicate age groups specified</i>	YES Phase 2 (1) Persons aged 65 and older in order of priority by oldest age group Phase 3 (2) Persons aged 60-64 Phase 4 (1) Persons aged 18 and older who have not been prioritised in previous phases, in order of priority by oldest age group	
<i>persons with underlying health problems</i>	YES Phase 2 (2) Persons with a particularly high risk due to dialysis or bone marrow- or organ transplantation Phase 3 (1)	

⁶ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Gravida med andra riskfaktorer kan få vaccin i fas 3](#)' ('Pregnant women with other risk factors may be vaccinated in phase 3'), 27 April 2021.

⁷ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Vaccination mot Covid-19 för särskilda grupper från 16 års ålder](#)' ('Vaccination against Covid-19 for special groups from the age of 16'), 29 April 2021.

	<p>Persons aged 60-64 with a disease or condition⁸ that carries an increased risk of severe Covid-19</p> <p>Phase 3 (3)</p> <p>Persons aged 18-59 with a disease or condition⁹ that carries an increased risk of severe Covid-19</p> <p>Persons aged 18-59 with conditions that make it difficult to follow recommendations on infection control measures, including persons with dementia</p>	
<i>persons with disabilities</i>	<p>YES</p> <p>Phase 2 (3)</p> <p>Persons aged 18 and older who receive support and service in accordance with the Swedish Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Impairments (LSS) or who receive personal assistance in accordance with the Swedish Social Insurance Code</p>	

⁸ Diseases or conditions that involve a heightened risk of severe Covid-19: Chronic cardiovascular disease, including stroke and hypertension; Chronic lung disease such as COPD and severe and unstable asthma; Other conditions leading to impaired lung function or impaired coughing and secretion stagnation (e.g. extreme obesity, neuromuscular diseases or multiple disabilities); Chronic liver or kidney failure; Type 1 and type 2 diabetes; Conditions that involve severely weakened immune systems due to illness or treatment; Down syndrome.

⁹ Diseases or conditions that involve a heightened risk of severe Covid-19: Chronic cardiovascular disease, including stroke and hypertension; Chronic lung disease such as COPD and severe and unstable asthma; Other conditions leading to impaired lung function or impaired coughing and secretion stagnation (e.g. extreme obesity, neuromuscular diseases or multiple disabilities); Chronic liver or kidney failure; Type 1 and type 2 diabetes; Conditions that involve severely weakened immune systems due to illness or treatment; Down syndrome.

	<p>Phase 3 (1) Persons aged 60-64 with a disease or condition that carries an increased risk of severe Covid-19, including persons with Down's syndrome and multiple impairments</p> <p>Phase 3 (3) Persons aged 18-59 with a disease or condition that carries an increased risk of severe Covid-19, including persons with Down's syndrome and multiple impairments</p> <p>Persons aged 18-59 with conditions that make it difficult to follow recommendations on infection control measures, including persons with cognitive or psychosocial impairment</p>	
<p><i>key workers (on the basis of their job not their personal characteristics) – e.g. health workers; persons working in care homes; teachers</i></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Phase 1 (2) Staff working in care homes for older persons; healthcare workers; other care staff who are working close to persons belonging to Phase 1 (1).</p> <p>Phase 2 (4) Healthcare workers and other service staff (including the Swedish Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Impairments (LSS)) working closely with patients and service recipients</p>	
<p><i>persons belonging to ethnic/national minorities</i></p>	NO	NO
<p><i>persons experiencing homelessness</i></p>	NO	NO
<p><i>persons with drug addiction dependencies</i></p>	NO	NO

<i>persons with low literacy levels</i>	NO	NO
<i>persons deprived of their liberty</i>	NO	NO
<i>persons without residence or with insecure legal status (such as refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants)</i>	NO	NO
<i>OTHER – not specified above; e.g. ‘Persons living in crowded accommodation’; etc. Please insert . . .</i>	<p>Phase 1 (1) Persons living in care homes for older persons or receiving home care in ordinary housing</p> <p>Phase 1 (3) Adults living in the same household as someone belonging to Phase 1 (1)</p> <p>Phase 2 (2) Persons living in the same household as someone belonging to Phase 2 (2) (risk group due to dialysis or bone marrow or organ transplantation)</p> <p>Phase 3 (3) Persons aged 18-59 with conditions that make it difficult to follow recommendations on infection control measures, expressly including persons living in socially vulnerable situations.</p>	<p>Phase 3 (priority level not stated) Pregnant women with certain risk factors.¹⁰</p> <p>Phase 3 or early in Phase 4 (priority level not stated) Specific groups¹¹ from the age of 16.</p>

¹⁰ Chronic cardiovascular disease, including stroke and hypertension; Chronic lung disease such as COPD and severe and unstable asthma; Other conditions leading to impaired lung function or impaired cough and secretion stagnation; Chronic liver or kidney failure; Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes; Conditions that affect the immune system due to illness or treatment; Pregnancy in women over the age of 35 or with a BMI over 30 is always considered a high-risk pregnancy and they should therefore also be offered vaccination against Covid-19.

¹¹ Particular groups with underlying chronic conditions with a generally increased risk of becoming seriously ill in viral respiratory infections, probably also in SARS-CoV-2.

In **Sweden**, the Public Health Agency has announced changes with regard to the following priority groups: persons aged 18-59 with conditions that make it difficult to follow recommendations on infection control measures, pregnant women and children aged 16-18.

In **Sweden**, persons aged 18-59 with conditions that make it difficult to follow recommendations on infection control measures are prioritised in Phase 3. The reason for this prioritisation is to provide protection to people at increased risk of Covid-19 infection. According to the Public Health Agency, this prioritisation includes persons living in socially vulnerable situations.¹² The first draft of Addendum 3 included a reference to homeless and undocumented persons to exemplify groups that may live in socially vulnerable situations. Shortly after the publication of Addendum 3, the reference to homeless and undocumented persons was removed. A clarification was communicated by the Public Health Agency, stating that the intention was never to give priority to entire groups, but rather to show that there are individuals within these groups who are at an increased risk of becoming infected, as well as of infecting others.¹³ The Public Health Agency further explained the removal of the reference in that homeless and undocumented persons only mirrored a small part of the spectrum of relevant situations. Keeping the reference to homelessness and being undocumented may lead to the regions focusing too much on these two particular situations, at the expense of other groups living in socially vulnerable situations. The purpose of the removal of the reference was to leave it up to the regions (who are the ones responsible for carrying out the vaccinations) to handle the question of who are in socially vulnerable situations in each region.¹⁴ The initial reference to homeless and undocumented persons by the Public Health Authority, as well as its removal, have been debated in the Swedish media and social media.¹⁵

¹² Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 9.

¹³ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Uppdaterad rekommendation om vilka som prioriteras för vaccination mot Covid-19](#)', ('Updated recommendation on who is prioritised for vaccination against Covid-19'), 5 February 2021.

¹⁴ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Uppdaterad rekommendation om vilka som prioriteras för vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Updated recommendation on who is prioritised for vaccination against Covid-19'), 5 February 2021.

¹⁵ See for instance; Göteborgs-posten (2021), '[Folkhälsomyndigheten backar – papperslösa stryks efter vaccinkritiken](#)', ('The Swedish Public Health Agency backs down - undocumented persons removed after vaccine criticism'), 5 February 2021; Swedish Radio (2021), '[Ska socialt utsatta gå före i vaccinationskön?](#)' ('Should socially disadvantaged persons pass others out in the vaccination queue?'), 5 February 2021.

In **Sweden**, pregnant women have not generally been recommended vaccination, due to insufficient knowledge about the use of approved vaccines on pregnant women.¹⁶ During the reference period, the Public Health Agency however included pregnant women with risk factors as a new group of priority in Phase 3.¹⁷

In **Sweden**, children under 18 years have not generally been recommended vaccination, based on the knowledge that children have a lower risk than adults of developing severe Covid-19. There is also a lack of approved Covid-19 vaccines fully tested on children.¹⁸ During the reference period, the Public Health Agency however introduced specific groups from the age of 16 as a new group of priority included in Phase 3 or early in Phase 4.¹⁹ The reasons behind the changes are new recommendations from the Swedish Paediatric Society (*Svenska Barnläkarföreningen*) about vaccination against Covid-19 for limited patient groups from the age of 16, based on medical grounds (mainly clinical experience from other respiratory infections).²⁰

In **Sweden**, the primary purpose of prioritising certain groups is to provide protection for persons who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19. This is the underlying rationale behind the recommendation by the Public Health Agency for four different phases of vaccination, with further prioritisation within each phase.²¹

¹⁶ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2020) '[Rekommendation för fortsatt vaccination av prioriterade grupper, med syfte att ge tidigt skydd till personer som har störst risk att bli allvarligt sjuka eller avlida i Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for continued vaccination of priority groups, with the aim of providing early protection to people who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19'), 29 December 2020, page 8.

¹⁷ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Gravida med andra riskfaktorer kan få vaccin i fas 3](#)' ('Pregnant women with other risk factors may be vaccinated in phase 3'), 27 April 2021.

¹⁸ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 10.

¹⁹ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Vaccination mot Covid-19 för särskilda grupper från 16 års ålder](#)' ('Vaccination against Covid-19 for special groups from the age of 16'), 29 April 2021.

²⁰ Swedish Paediatric Society (*Svenska Barnläkarföreningen*) (2021) '[Rekommendationer för vaccination mot Covid-19 för särskilda grupper av barn/ungdomar från 16 års ålder](#)', ('Recommendations for vaccination against Covid-19 for particular groups of children/adolescents from 16 years of age') 5 May 2021, page 1.

²¹ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 7.

The most obvious risk factor is old age. Given the fact that older persons are most at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19, the oldest should be vaccinated first, and in particular those older persons living in care homes or having home care in ordinary housing.²²

Another risk factor is that of underlying diseases and conditions, and persons belonging to these risk groups are consequently prioritised.²³ Persons who are 18 and older and who receive disability support and service, or receive personal assistance, are prioritised for the same reason: an increased risk of serious Covid-19.²⁴

The same reasons are behind the prioritisation of staff working in relation to the groups above. This prioritization provides indirect protection to those most at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19, at the same time as it ensures a functioning healthcare system during the ongoing pandemic.²⁵

In addition to age, disease and other conditions, other factors to be considered in all four phases of vaccination are socioeconomic ones.²⁶ The rationale for this is the same: heightened risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19. Identified risk factors here include country of birth, residential area and socioeconomic status.²⁷ The same logic applies to the prioritisation of persons with conditions that make it hard to follow recommendations on infection control

²² Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2020) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19, med syfte att ge tidigt skydd till personer som har störst risk att bli allvarligt sjuka eller avlida i Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19, with the aim of providing early protection to persons who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19'), 4 December 2020, page 6.

²³ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 7.

²⁴ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 11.

²⁵ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 11.

²⁶ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 7.

²⁷ Sweden, Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 7.

measures, as heightened risk of contracting the disease carries with it heightened risk of serious illness and death.²⁸

2 Vaccination rollout – communication, targeted outreach, registration, and administration of vaccinations

In **Sweden**, providing health care is part of the mandate of the regions, including during pandemics. Sweden's 21 different regions are therefore responsible for carrying out the vaccinations against Covid-19. The regions have the mandate to decide how to carry out their work, and to this end they have the assistance of national authorities, such as the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), the National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (*Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap*) and the County Administrative Boards (*Länsstyrelserna*).²⁹ The national vaccination plan issued by the Public Health Agency, including the phases with their internal priority order, functions as a support for the region's own decisions, which ultimately are to be based on the different conditions in each region.

The membership body representing the regions, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*), has negotiated an agreement with the Swedish government in order to ensure rapid vaccination against Covid-19. The agreement guarantees that the government covers the region's costs for carrying out the vaccinations, if the regions – among other things – offer free vaccination against Covid-19 in accordance with the order of phases and prioritisations recommended by the Public Health Agency.³⁰ Theoretically, the regions can do otherwise, as long as they follow relevant laws (which give them considerable freedom). In reality however, the regions need the funds and have

²⁸ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Rekommendation för prioritering av vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Recommendation for prioritisation of vaccination against Covid-19'), 4 February 2021, page 12.

²⁹ For a complete list of the national authorities roles and responsibilities during a pandemic, see Sweden, Public Health Authority (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2019) '[Pandemiberedskap, Hur vi förbereder oss - ett kunskapsunderlag](#)' ('Pandemic preparedness, How we prepare – a knowledge base').

³⁰ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) and Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*) (2020) '[Överenskommelse om genomförande av vaccinering mot Covid-19](#)', ('Agreement on the deployment of vaccination against Covid-19'), 8 December 2020 ([updated 1 April 2021](#)).

common goals with the Public Health Agency, being to protect those most at risk and to reach everyone for purposes of preventing the spread of the disease, which includes equally those who live at the margins of society.

2.1 Channels, means and measures to inform about the national vaccination plan

Communication and information about the vaccine and vaccination fall upon authorities at the national, regional and local levels, and is coordinated on the national level, mainly through the Public Health Agency.³¹

In **Sweden**, the Public Health Agency is the main actor providing information to the public about the national vaccination plan. Communication efforts are conducted through a number of channels, with the websites of national agencies and regions as hubs.³² The main information channels are the website 1177.se (*Vårdguiden*) and the website of the Public Health Agency. The website 1177.se is Sweden's hub for information and services regarding healthcare. It is a nationwide portal which directs you to one of the 21 regions, and functions as the regions' main channel for information about the Covid-19 vaccinations.³³ The section for each region has information available in 18 different languages and plain language Swedish.³⁴ The website 1177.se largely complies with the Act on Accessibility of Digital Public Services (*Lag (2018:1937) om tillgänglighet till digital offentlig service*).³⁵ Information on the Public Health Agency's website is also available in

³¹ At the national level, it is the Public Health Agency that coordinates all communication efforts in Sweden in case of a pandemic. Specifically following the outbreak of the Covid-19, the Swedish government assigned the Public Health Agency to provide information in collaboration with other actors that contribute to regions and municipalities being able to plan and organise their activities for vaccination against Covid-19, see Sweden, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*) (2021) '[Uppdrag att ta fram en nationell plan för vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Assignment to develop a national plan on vaccination against Covid-19'), government decision S2020/04550/FS, 20 May 2020.

³² Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2020) '[Nationell plan för vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('National plan for vaccination against Covid-19'), 31 August 2020, page 41.

³³ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 2](#)', 25 January 2021, page 7.

³⁴ See the website for [list of languages](#): Albanian, Arabic, English, Finnish, French, Yiddish, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romani kelderash, Romani lovvari, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, South Sami, Tigrinya, Turkish.

³⁵ This means that the site is mainly in level AA in the WCAG 2.1 standard. See the Website's [accessibility statement](#).

different languages, including national minority languages.³⁶ It is possible to listen to all webpages through a built-in function, and some information is available in plain language Swedish and sign language.

The **Swedish** Civil Contingencies Agency is responsible for the website krisinformation.se which collects information for the public from the responsible Swedish authorities and regions about the Covid-19 vaccination. The information is available in different languages, sign language and plain language Swedish. It is also possible to listen to most pages through a built-in function.³⁷ The Swedish Agency for Participation (*Myndigheten för delaktighet*) collect links to information about the vaccination in accessible formats at their webpage.³⁸

In **Sweden**, regular press conferences have been held by the government and responsible national agencies since the outbreak of Covid-19. The press conferences are available at the government's YouTube channel and are simultaneously translated into sign language and texted.³⁹ The Swedish National Association of the Deaf (*Sveriges Dövas Riksförbund*) reports that press conferences on Covid-19 only became sign language interpreted after they intervened, and that the discussions following the press conferences are still not sign language interpreted.⁴⁰

In **Sweden**, there are a number of telephone lines to which the public may direct their questions about the Covid-19 vaccination. 113 13 is Sweden's national information number regarding crisis and emergencies and provides answers to general questions about Covid-19. A specific Covid-19 telephone line (08-123 680 00) has also been established through a collaboration between the Public Health Agency and the regions of Sweden for general questions about Covid-19, including

³⁶ See the website of the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), [information in different languages](#): Albanian, Amharic/Amarinja, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Dari, English, Finnish, Yiddish, Chinese, Kurmanji, Lule Sámi, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, Pashto, Persian/Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Romani arli, Romani kelderash, Romani lovare, Russian, Somali, Sorani, Spanish, South Sami, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish and German.

³⁷ See the website of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (*Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap*) krisinformation.se for [information in different languages](#); Amharic/Amarinja, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Dari, English, French, Finnish, Chinese, Kurmanji, Lule Sámi, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, Pashto, Persian/Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Romani arli, Romani lovare, Russian, Somali, Sorani, Spanish, South Sami, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish and German.

³⁸ See the webpage of Swedish Agency for Participation (*Myndigheten för delaktighet*), [information about Covid-19](#).

³⁹ See the government offices' [YouTube channel](#).

⁴⁰ Swedish National Association of the Deaf (*Sveriges Dövas Riksförbund*) (2020), ['Vi kräver skärpning av SVT språk & tillgänglighet'](#) ('We demand improvement of SVT language and accessibility'), letter dated 11 December 2020.

the vaccination. The telephone service is available in several languages.⁴¹ All regions have established specific telephone lines for questions about the vaccination in several languages.⁴²

The **Swedish** government has assigned the Swedish Research Council (*Vetenskapsrådet*) to conduct communication efforts and contribute to the communication of scientifically substantiated facts about vaccination against Covid-19.⁴³ Broader communication efforts have been launched by the government agencies to address any concerns regarding the vaccines and to increase the willingness to be vaccinated.⁴⁴

In **Sweden**, the regions adapt their communication efforts based on the regional conditions and coordinate the communication with the municipalities within each region.⁴⁵ Regional communication plans build upon the national information about Covid-19 vaccinations.⁴⁶ All regions report that they conduct comprehensive active outreach efforts in relation to those among the priority groups who may be hard to reach.⁴⁷

⁴¹ Available languages are Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, Dari, English, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish or Tigrinya. See the website of the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), [information in different languages](#).

⁴² Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*), interview with Ulrika Vestin, Healthcare expert, 5 May 2021.

⁴³ Sweden, Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartementet*) (2021) '[Vetenskapsrådet ges i uppdrag att bedriva kommunikationsinsatser om vaccinationer](#)' ('The Swedish Research Council is assigned to conduct communication efforts about vaccination'), 26 February 2021, press release. This work is conducted in collaboration with the Civil Contingencies Agency (*Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap*) and the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*).

⁴⁴ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 11.

⁴⁵ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 11.

⁴⁶ Sweden, Swedish Regions (*Sveriges Regioner*) (2020) '[Kommunikationsplan för vaccination mot Covid-19](#)' ('Communication plan for vaccination against Covid-19'), 11 December 2020, page 6.

⁴⁷ See the responsible authorities' [press conference](#) from 6 May 2021.

2.2 What are the (pre-) registration channels for vaccination put in place?

In **Sweden**, the 21 regions handle the registration process for vaccination against Covid-19. Information about when it is time for a person to register and how to register is provided via the national healthcare website 1177.se.⁴⁸ As mentioned in section 2.1., this national portal directs you to the site for the region where you want to be vaccinated. In some regions it is also possible to register for vaccination via a mobile app.⁴⁹ You have the right to choose which region you want to be vaccinated in.⁵⁰

In order to register for vaccination in **Sweden**, it requires that you are part of the phase and priority group currently targeted. Several regions apply so-called trust-based registration. This means that individuals decide whether they are part of the priority group currently targeted and assure that the information they provide is correct.⁵¹ As mentioned in section 2.1., information in 18 different languages is provided on the regional sections of the 1177.se website. In some regions, this includes information about when each group can register for vaccination in other languages, as well as in plain language Swedish.⁵²

Several **Swedish** regions indicate that they prefer digital registration, but that they all have alternatives to digital registration.⁵³ The regions report that they work with individual solutions for persons who do not have an e-identification or have difficulty managing digital booking services.⁵⁴ All regions offer telephone

⁴⁸ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 12.

⁴⁹ For example, Region Stockholm uses the Mobile app called "[alltid öppet](#)".

⁵⁰ See for example the website [1177.se](#).

⁵¹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 10.

⁵² See for example the webpage of Region Skåne, [Lätt svenska](#).

⁵³ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 8.

⁵⁴ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7.

registration.⁵⁵ The regions report that they plan to have a high level of accessibility via telephone throughout the vaccination process in order to meet this need.⁵⁶

Other alternative registration channels vary from region to region depending on the current needs and conditions in each, and the specific target group offered vaccination at a particular time.⁵⁷ During the reference period for this report (covering phases 1, 2 and 3)⁵⁸, the regions report that they increasingly send out postcards or letters to persons over a certain age containing information about how to register for vaccination, starting with the oldest.⁵⁹ Some regions send predetermined vaccination times, others inform about how to register.⁶⁰

2.3 How are the vaccinations administered?

In **Sweden**, the vaccination is administered by the 21 regions and the vast majority of people are vaccinated at the local health centre or at an established vaccination centre.⁶¹ All regions report that they have created alternative solutions

⁵⁵ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 11.

⁵⁶ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7.

⁵⁷ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7.

⁵⁸ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Snabb ökning av vaccinationstakten](#)' ('Rapid increase in the rate of vaccination'), (27 April 2021).

⁵⁹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 8.

⁶⁰ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7.

⁶¹ See for example Region Halland [webpage](#); Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 3](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 3'), 25 February 2021, page 8.

for those persons who encounter obstacles in reaching these vaccination sites.⁶² Persons living in care homes or receiving home care have been offered vaccination at their residences.⁶³ For persons who are unable to get to the vaccination sites, such as some persons receiving disability services, specific transportations (*sjukresor*) to the vaccination sites are offered.⁶⁴ For vaccination of the oldest age groups living in some villages, mobile teams from the central town travel to the villages.⁶⁵ The regions report that these alternative solutions have required close cooperation between the regions and the municipalities, as the latter provide residential and other services to target groups.⁶⁶

The adopted solutions differ among the regions and are changing as additional target groups are introduced as priorities in the different phases.⁶⁷ The use of drop-in vaccination sites have been reported in some regions.⁶⁸ Persons belonging to the medical risk groups in phase 3 are vaccinated at specialist clinics.⁶⁹ In phase 3, persons with conditions that make it difficult to follow recommendations on infection control measures, including persons living in socially vulnerable

⁶² Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' (The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7; Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*), interview with Ulrika Vestin, Healthcare expert, 5 May 2021.

⁶³ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 8.

⁶⁴ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 8; Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7. See also e.g. the webpage of [Region Halland](#).

⁶⁵ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7.

⁶⁶ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 8.

⁶⁷ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, pages 8-10.

⁶⁸ See the responsible authorities' [press conference](#) from 6 May 2021.

⁶⁹ See the responsible authorities' [press conference](#) from 6 May 2021.

situations, are to be prioritised. In some regions, persons included in this group are offered vaccination at sites such as hospitals, mobile vaccine units, centres for substance dependency, asylum centres and syringe replacement centres.⁷⁰ Here, the regions report on the importance of cooperation with civil society actors such as the Swedish Red Cross (*Svenska Röda Korset*) and immigrant organisations.⁷¹

In **Sweden**, the main portal for this information is the national 1177.se website, which contains regionally-adapted information about the vaccination process and the vaccines, as well as potential side effects.⁷² As mentioned above, the information is provided in 18 different languages⁷³ as well as in plain language Swedish. The website of 1177.se links to the more detailed information at the websites of the Swedish Medical Products Agency (*Läkemedelsverket*) and the Public Health Agency. Some information at the Medical Products Agency's website is available in English and plain language Swedish.⁷⁴ As mentioned in section 2.1., the website of the Public Health Agency is available in different languages⁷⁵ including national minority languages.⁷⁶ It is possible to listen to all webpages, and some information is available in plain language Swedish and sign language. Up-to-date information is also available on the regions' websites.⁷⁷

Information is also provided in a number of fact sheets and films produced by the Public Health Agency. One fact sheet is specifically directed towards persons

⁷⁰ See the webpage of [Region Stockholm](#).

⁷¹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7.

⁷² Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7. See also the responsible authorities' [press conference](#) from 6 May 2021.

⁷³ See the website for the [list of languages](#): Albanian, Arabic, English, Finnish, French, Yiddish, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romani kelderash, Romani lovari, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, South Sami, Tigrinya, Turkish.

⁷⁴ See the webpage of the [Medical Products Agency](#) (*Läkemedelsverket*).

⁷⁵ See the website of the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), [information in different languages](#); Albanian, Amharic/Amarinja, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Dari, English, Finnish, Yiddish, Chinese, Kurmanji, Lule Sámi, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, Pashto, Persian/Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Romani arli, Romani kelderash, Romani lovari, Russian, Somali, Sorani, Spanish, South Sami, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish and German.

⁷⁶ See the website of the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), [minority languages](#).

⁷⁷ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 7.

offered vaccination against Covid-19 (available in different languages),⁷⁸ and one contains information about who is offered vaccination (available in different languages)⁷⁹. All fact sheets are available in plain language Swedish.⁸⁰ Films provide information about the vaccination process and information to persons who are offered vaccination. The films are available in several languages, including sign language.⁸¹ As mentioned in section 2.1., all regions have established specific telephone lines for questions about the vaccination.⁸²

At the vaccination site, the certified health personnel carrying out the vaccinations reply to questions about the vaccines and any potential side effects.⁸³ The vaccinators report an increasing number of questions about risks related to the vaccination.⁸⁴ The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions emphasises the need for clear information about potential risks and side effects from the responsible national agencies.⁸⁵

In some regions, the Swedish Red Cross (*Svenska Röda Korset*) reports that it assists the health care personnel at the vaccination site by helping with information and support to persons being vaccinated.⁸⁶

⁷⁸ Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Dari, English, Finnish, French, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, Persian/Farsi, Polish, Romani kelderash, Romani lovari, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya.

⁷⁹ Arabic, Bulgarian, Dari, English, Persian/Farsi, Polish, Romani, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, Turkish.

⁸⁰ See the website of the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), [fact sheets](#).

⁸¹ The available languages are English, Somali, Arabic, Persian/Farsi and Tigrinya and sign language. See the website of the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), [films](#).

⁸² Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*), interview with Ulrika Vestin, Healthcare expert, 5 May 2021.

⁸³ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*), interview with Ulrika Vestin, Healthcare expert, 5 May 2021.

⁸⁴ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5'](#) ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 13.

⁸⁵ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5'](#) ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 13.

⁸⁶ See the website of the Swedish Red Cross (*Svenska Röda Korset*) '[Röda korset hjälper till vid vaccinering'](#) ('The Red Cross helps with vaccination').

In **Sweden**, all persons residing in the country are offered free Covid-19 vaccination⁸⁷ as Covid-19 is classified as a public health hazard.⁸⁸ In line with the recommendation from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, all regions offer persons who live or permanently stay in Sweden a free vaccine against Covid-19.⁸⁹ This includes asylum seekers and undocumented persons.⁹⁰

In **Sweden**, the vaccine is also free of charge for persons who, without residing in the country, are entitled to care benefits in Sweden in the event of illness according to EU Regulation 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems. This means that Swedish citizens living in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland who are covered by this regulation are entitled to free vaccination. This also applies to students who study in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland but are considered resident in Sweden and therefore covered by the Swedish social insurance. As vaccination is to be regarded as planned care, as opposed to emergency care, the main rule is that Swedes living abroad outside the EU/EEA area or Switzerland are not covered by the exemption from fees.⁹¹

⁸⁷ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2020) [‘Rekommendation om kostnadsfrihet av vaccinering mot Covid-19’](#) (‘Recommendation on vaccination against Covid-19 free of cost’), 8 December 2020.

⁸⁸ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) and Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (*Socialdepartementet*) (2020) [‘Överenskommelse om genomförande av vaccinering mot Covid-19’](#), (‘Agreement on the deployment of vaccination against Covid-19’), 8 December 2020, ([updated 1 April 2021](#)),

page 6; Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2020) [‘Rekommendation om kostnadsfrihet av vaccinering mot Covid-19’](#) (‘Recommendation on vaccination against Covid-19 free of cost’), 8 December 2020.

⁸⁹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*), interview with Ulrika Vestin, Healthcare expert, 5 May 2021.

⁹⁰ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2020) [‘Rekommendation om kostnadsfrihet av vaccinering mot Covid-19’](#) (‘Recommendation on vaccination against Covid-19 free of cost’), 8 December 2020.

⁹¹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Omfattas utlandssvenskar av rätten till avgiftsfri vaccinering mot Covid-19?’](#) (‘Are Swedes abroad covered by the right to free vaccination against Covid-19?’), 3 March 2021.

3 Challenges and promising practices

3.1 Challenges

In Sweden, the Public Health Agency reports that the risk of serious illness and death in Covid-19 is higher among persons born outside of Sweden, particularly for those born in the Middle East and Africa.⁹² On a population level, being born outside of Sweden also coincides with socioeconomic inequalities such as lower income, shorter education and worse occupation and living conditions, which are all risk factors for serious illness and death in Covid-19.⁹³ Recent data presented by the Public Health Agency show a lower vaccination coverage among persons in the same priority group (such as older persons) depending on country of birth.⁹⁴ For example, as of 21 April 2021, the vaccination coverage (dose 1) of persons aged 65-79 born in Sweden is 41%, while the coverage for persons born in the Middle East is 19%, the coverage for persons born in North Africa is 17% and the coverage for persons born in the remainder of Africa is 16%.⁹⁵ This unequal coverage is doubly disconcerting given that it disadvantages persons who are already exposed to a higher risk of serious illness and death from Covid-19, and therefore according to the Swedish rationale for prioritisation should have higher, rather than lower, coverage of vaccination.

In Sweden, no one is allowed to choose which brand of vaccine to take.⁹⁶ The use of one vaccine (the Vaxzevria-vaccine from AstraZeneca) was paused pending an investigation into links to very rare, but serious, side effects of blood clots and low blood platelet counts.⁹⁷ After the pause, the Vaxzevria-vaccine from

⁹² Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) [‘Utrikesfödda och Covid-19’](#) (‘Foreign-born and Covid-19’), 29 April 2021, pages. 8, 12-13; Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) [‘Covid-19 vaccinationstäckning och födelseland’](#) (‘Covid-19 vaccination coverage and country of birth’), 29 April 2021, page 6.

⁹³ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) [‘Utrikesfödda och Covid-19’](#) (‘Foreign-born and Covid-19’), 29 April 2021, pages 8, 11-13; Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) [‘Covid-19 vaccinationstäckning och födelseland’](#) (‘Covid-19 vaccination coverage and country of birth’), 29 April 2021, page 6.

⁹⁴ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) [‘Covid-19 vaccinationstäckning och födelseland’](#) (‘Covid-19 vaccination coverage and country of birth’), 29 April 2021, page 4.

⁹⁵ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) [‘Covid-19 vaccinationstäckning och födelseland’](#) (‘Covid-19 vaccination coverage and country of birth’), 29 April 2021, page. 8.

⁹⁶ See the website of the Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*), [Q&As](#).

⁹⁷ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) [‘AstraZenecas vaccin pausas som en försiktighetsåtgärd i väntan på EMA:s utredning’](#) (‘AstraZeneca vaccine paused as a precautionary measure pending EMA investigation’), 16 March 2021.

AstraZeneca was reintroduced in the vaccination programme, but only for persons 65 and older.⁹⁸ The Public Health Agency's explanation for this different treatment is that the risk of these side effects among the age group 65 and older is not the same as for younger persons.⁹⁹ Like others, persons 65 and older cannot choose which vaccine they receive, which means that they will have to accept the Vaxzevria-vaccine from AstraZeneca if offered, or alternatively go without vaccination. This may raise issues of discrimination based on age in relation to actual access to protection against Covid-19 without incurring a risk of serious side effects. Swedish media reports that the Swedish Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*) has received complaints to this effect.¹⁰⁰ Irrespective of this question of discrimination and the validity of risk/benefit by the Swedish authorities' analysis behind the decision to continue the use of the Vaxzevria-vaccine from AstraZeneca for persons 65 and older, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions as well as Swedish media reports that some persons offered the Vaxzevria-vaccine from AstraZeneca decline it.¹⁰¹ The fact that part of a risk group, for whatever reasons, is unvaccinated remains a challenge in itself.

3.2 Promising practices

As mentioned above under 3.1, a remaining challenge **in Sweden** is the documented unequal access to vaccine for persons born outside of Sweden, particularly those both in The Middle East or Africa, despite a documented

⁹⁸ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Vaccinationerna med Astra Zenecas vaccin kan fortsätta för personer som är 65 år och äldre](#)' ('Vaccinations with Astra Zeneca vaccine can continue for people aged 65 and over'), 25 March 2021; Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Rekommendation om åldersgräns på 65 år för AstraZenecas vaccin kvarstår](#)' ('Recommendation on age limit of 65 years for AstraZeneca vaccine remains'), 20 April 2021.

⁹⁹ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Vaccinationerna med Astra Zenecas vaccin kan fortsätta för personer som är 65 år och äldre](#)' ('Vaccinations with Astra Zeneca vaccine can continue for people aged 65 and over'), 25 March 2021; Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Rekommendation om åldersgräns på 65 år för AstraZenecas vaccin kvarstår](#)' ('Recommendation on age limit of 65 years for AstraZeneca vaccine remains'), 20 April 2021.

¹⁰⁰ Swedish public service television (2021) '[Vägrar ta Astra Zenecas vaccin – anmäler regionen till DO](#)' ('Refuses to take Astra Zeneca's vaccine- reports the region to DO [the Equality Ombudman]'), 29 April 2021.

¹⁰¹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page 6; Dagens Medicin (2021) '[Många nobbar Astra Zenecas vaccin – "Vansinnig riskvärdering"](#)' ('Many snub Astra Zeneca's vaccine – "Insane risk assessment"'), 19 April 2021; Dagens Nyheter, '[Flera regioner vittnar om Astra-Zeneca vägran](#)' ('Several regions testify to Astra-Zeneca refusal'), 17 April 2021.

increased risk of becoming seriously ill and dying from Covid-19. While this result represents a challenge for the Swedish vaccination effort, the monitoring of the correlations between place of birth and access to vaccination by the Public Health Agency is a promising practice. This practice draws attention to the problem of inequality based on country of birth and assists the regions by indicating clearly where they need to intensify and/or alter their vaccination efforts.¹⁰² It is also notable that the Public Health Authority, in their publication of these results, links the unequal risk for serious illness and death among persons born outside of Sweden to the inequalities they are subjected to in various areas of life.¹⁰³ Another promising practice (related to the extent that birth outside of Sweden overlaps with not speaking Swedish) is the provision of information on Covid-19 and vaccination through different languages via websites as well as telephone lines reported in Section 2.

Another promising practice **in Sweden** is the many ways the national authorities, regions, municipalities and civil society have cooperated to reach those who may otherwise not have had access to vaccination, or information about vaccination. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions reports this cooperation as a crucial factor for success.¹⁰⁴ This work has taken different forms in different regions, but all regions report that they conduct comprehensive outreach efforts in relation to those among the priority groups who may be hard to reach.¹⁰⁵ The regions have made targeted efforts, both orally and written, to disseminate information through their established contacts and the channels of those contacts.¹⁰⁶ Information at online channels has been complemented with features in local radio stations, translated vaccination information in stairwells, laundry rooms, grocery stores, and in the format of films/lectures together with key persons within the target group. Advertisements in the press, local media, websites, social media and other channels are also used. In order to reach out with information, posts on social media have been translated into other languages

¹⁰² Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Covid-19 vaccinationstäckning och födelse land](#)' ('Covid-19 vaccination coverage and country of birth'), 29 April 2021, pages 4, 10.

¹⁰³ Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Utrikesfödda och Covid-19](#)' ('Foreign-born and Covid-19'), 29 April 2021, pages 8, 11-13; Sweden, Public Health Agency (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) (2021) '[Covid-19 vaccinationstäckning och födelse land](#)' ('Covid-19 vaccination coverage and country of birth'), 29 April 2021, page 6.

¹⁰⁴ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5'), 26 April 2021, page 8.

¹⁰⁵ See the responsible authorities' [press conference](#) from 6 May 2021.

¹⁰⁶ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) '[Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4](#)' ('The regions' plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4'), 25 March 2021, page. 7.

and image support has also been developed.¹⁰⁷ The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions reports that working with the municipalities is crucial, for example working with local disability services and substance dependency services.¹⁰⁸ In order to reach the different target groups the regions also report that they collaborate with governmental agencies such as the Swedish Migration Agency (*Migrationsverket*), the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (*Kriminalvården*) and the Swedish Agency for Support for Faith Communities (*Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund*).¹⁰⁹ Cooperation also includes the Swedish Church (*Svenska kyrkan*) and civil society organizations such as the Swedish Red Cross and immigrant organisations.¹¹⁰ The goal of these collaborations is to reach persons who exist at the margins of society, such as persons who are homeless, persons who are seeking asylum, EU-migrants, persons who are sex workers, persons with mother tongues other than Swedish and other persons who may have low faith in public authorities and health services.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁷ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5’](#) (‘The regions’ plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5’), 26 April 2021, page 9.

¹⁰⁸ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5’](#) (‘The regions’ plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5’), 26 April 2021, pages 8-9.

¹⁰⁹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4’](#) (‘The regions’ plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4’), 25 March 2021, page 7; Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5’](#) (‘The regions’ plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5’), 26 April 2021, page 9.

¹¹⁰ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 4’](#) (‘The regions’ plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 4’), 25 March 2021, page 7; Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5’](#) (‘The regions’ plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5’), 26 April 2021, page 9.

¹¹¹ Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (*Sveriges kommuner och regioner*) (2021) [‘Regionernas planering avseende vaccinering mot Covid-19, delrapport 5’](#) (‘The regions’ plan regarding vaccination against Covid-19, sub-report 5’), 26 April 2021, page 9.