



Urgent decision on extended quarantine provision for mainland travellers – clarification of urgent decision on extended quarantine provision for mainland travellers (20.3.2020)

Decision:

In order to prevent and limit infection of Covid-19, and to protect vulnerable groups, the Longyearbyen administration committee has, pursuant to the regulation on health legislation for Svalbard section 9 fourth paragraph, cf. Section 4-1, first paragraph, letter c of the Contingency Protection Act, adopt the following:

Anyone arriving in the Longyearbyen plan area after traveling from the mainland will be quarantined at home for 14 days after arrival. The definition of the home quarantine appears in the national guidelines for the home quarantine guidelines in force at any given time.

For persons who develop disease or symptoms during the quarantine period, the authority's guidelines at all times apply to the conversion of the quarantine into isolation.

The decision is valid from 18 March 2020 at 06:00 and retroactively back to March 13, 2020 at 06:00.

The decision is valid until March 27, 2020 at 18:00.

Supplementary provisions:

These quarantine provisions apply only to the traveller himself, and not persons with whom the traveller stays, or has stayed with, during his stay in Longyearbyen.

Travellers travelling to areas outside Longyearbyen plan area (for example Svea, Barentsburg and Ny-Alesund) must be in quarantine until they leave the plan area.

Travellers arriving at Svalbard Airport who have no symptoms can travel to the planned quarantine location in Longyearbyen. Public transport should be avoided.

Travellers with symptoms should be in isolation immediately and cannot use public transport.

Anyone who has no symptoms of respiratory infection can return to the mainland.

Travellers who make use of the opportunity to return to the mainland must be in quarantine until departure.

Exception Provisions:

Employees in the health service with patient-related work at Longyearbyen hospital and a doctor at Lufttransport are already subject to an enhanced covid-19 testing system and are therefore exempted from this decision. Other health professionals are not exempt.

Exceptions may be granted for persons who have already been quarantined on the mainland, cf. regulations on quarantine, etc. on arrival in Norway. The person must have come directly from quarantine on the mainland, i.e. travelled straight from the quarantine to the airport.

People who have socially critical functions and other key personnel may be exempted from this quarantine requirement. National guidelines for quarantine and isolation in case of illness also apply. It is the Governor who decides who comes under the exception. The exception only applies when this is strictly necessary to maintain the proper operation of critical social functions. Apart from this, no exemptions are granted from these provisions.