

Deres referanse: Vår referanse: Saksbehandler: Dato:
2020/241 25.3.2020

Resolution on extending quarantine provisions for travellers from the mainland

Processed in the Administration Committee 25 March 2020:

In order to prevent and limit infection of Covid-19 and to protect vulnerable groups, the Administration Committee of the Longyearbyen Community Council, pursuant to the regulations on health legislation for Svalbard Section 9, fourth paragraph, cf. Section 4-1, first paragraph, letter d, of the Contingency Protection Act, adopted the following:

Anyone arriving in the Longyearbyen plan area via the airport, harbour or by other means, after traveling from the mainland in the last 14 days, must observe home quarantine for 14 days after arrival in Svalbard. The definition of home quarantine appears in the national guidelines for home quarantine 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 an extension of the decision in the Administration Committee on 20 March.

The decision is made for a period of 7 days in accordance with the regulations on health legislation for Svalbard Section 9, fourth paragraph, cf. Section 4-1, first paragraph, letter d of the Contingency Protection Act, and applies until 3 April 2020. If necessary, the decision can be extended after this date.

Supplementary provisions:

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

Travellers coming from the mainland and going to areas outside the Longyearbyen plan area (for example Svea, Barentsburg and Ny-Ålesund) must in quarantine if they leave the airport area.

Travellers who arrive at Svalbard Airport or Longyearbyen Harbour and who have no symptoms can go 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 use the opportunity to return to the mainland or travel to other settlements in Svalbard 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 all been in quarantine on the mainland, cf. regulations on quarantine, etc. on arrival in Norway. The person must have come directly from the quarantine on the mainland, i.e. travelled straight from the quarantine to the airport.

People who have socially critical functions and other key personnel who are necessary to maintain necessary operations in the companies can be exempted from this quarantine requirement. National guidelines for quarantine, and isolation in case of illness, also apply.

In all cases, the company must apply for exemptions from the quarantine requirement.

The Governor decides who comes under the exception. The exceptions should only be used where strictly necessary. Apart from this, no exemptions are granted from these provisions.

It should be noted that governmental guidelines can lead to changes in the exemption provisions.