

Dear multicultural residents in Kristiansand. **(ENGLISH / ENGELSK)**

The municipality has received many inquiries from our residents and consequently we would like to provide all residents with some brief information on the present situation.

As you already know, we are living through a moment where we must severely limit our contact with each other. The term you now are probably familiar with is "social distancing".

Social distancing is still very appropriate and we cannot stop the application of this measure. The municipality is currently trying to maintain all of our services as much as possible. As some of you are aware of already, schools in Kristiansand are now operating through the internet. Our municipality has many employees and many of them continue to work from home. This means that you may contact them and present them with any question you may have. However, we ask you please to use the phone for this purpose.

We have received some questions about protective equipment, such as facemasks and liquid hand disinfection.

Facemasks: Facemasks do not provide protection over time and must be used by health care professionals only.

Liquid hand disinfection: These products, for the time being, are very difficult to acquire. Liquid hand disinfection is sold out everywhere, and the municipality does not have the possibility to provide this product to our residents. However, on the bright side, water and soap are actually more effective. Our best advice, wash your hands often and thoroughly.

Others have inquired how long we should expect the present measures to continue. For the time being, it is not possible to answer this inquiry. Nevertheless, based on the information provided by national authorities yesterday, we must expect that these strict measures will still be in place until after Easter week. That means that these strict measures will be valid until April 13th, 2020. The municipality will provide residents with more information about this situation before April 13th, 2020.

On March 12th, 2020, the government implemented a number of measures as an attempt to stop contagion by the virus. These measures are the strongest and most radical Norway has enacted during peacetime. These measures will at least remain in place, as previously mentioned, until April 13th, 2020. The measures' main points are:

- Everyone must respect social distancing keeping at least one metres space between each other
- When we are not at home, we should never congregate more than five people in the same group.
- Do not exercise in large groups nor participate in group merrymakings or get-togethers.
- Continue washing your hands frequently and thoroughly.
 - Wash your hands before leaving home, immediately after you come back home, and before ingesting food or beverages.
 - Try to avoid touching your face.
- If you have a cold or a sore throat, stay home and remain there for a complete day after you recover from the cold / sore throat.

Take care of each other.

Best regards

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