

Press release from [Ministry of Justice](#)

Maximum of eight people permitted at public gatherings and events

Published 23 November 2020

The Government has decided that as a general rule, it is now prohibited to organise public gatherings and events with more than eight participants. The aim is to counter the spread of COVID-19.

'These are very intrusive measures that are unprecedented in modern times. We don't take limiting people's right to assemble for gatherings and events lightly, but considering the situation we currently find ourselves in, it's necessary. We must reduce the spread of infection in order to support health care and save lives,' says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

During the autumn, the spread of COVID-19 has increased dramatically and the situation in Sweden is currently very serious. The ordinance prohibiting the holding of public gatherings and events has been and remains an important tool to counter the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. The Government has therefore decided to further limit the possibility of organising public gatherings and events.

Today's decision means that it is prohibited to organise public gatherings and events with more than eight participants. The previous exemption for gatherings and events held at eating and drinking establishments is removed. This is in line with the proposal to ban the sale of alcoholic beverages after 22.00, which enters into force today. The idea is to tackle the spread of infection at bars and restaurants, environments where the Public Health Agency of Sweden considers there is a risk of transmission.

The Government has also decided on an exemption for religious gatherings held in connection with a death, provided that no more than 20 people participate. The exemption means that it will be possible to hold funeral services, urn interments and the like. The exemption is applicable regardless of faith.

Questions

The media and journalists should contact the relevant press secretary. For all other questions, please contact the switchboard on tel. + 46 8 405 10 00 or send an email to: ju.registrator@regeringskansliet.se.

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