

878/2021

Regulation on the restriction of gatherings due to an epidemic.

Article 1 *Objectives.*

With reference to paragraph 2 Article 12 quarantine act no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments, the Minister of Health has decided, on the recommendation of the epidemiologist and in consultation with the government, to impose a temporary restriction on gatherings as detailed in this regulation.

The goal of the restriction is to slow down as much as possible the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

Article 2 *Scope.*

Restrictions on gatherings will come into effect on July 25, 2021 and remain in effect until August 27, 2021.

The government re-evaluates the need for the restriction as materials are available, i.e. whether it can be lifted earlier or whether there is a need to extend its validity period.

Restrictions on gatherings apply to the entire country.

The regulation does not apply to international airports and ports, nor to aircraft, ships on international voyages and ships engaged in fishing.

The regulation does not apply to health institutions, nursing homes and other similar institutions, but they must establish rules for quarantine, cf. Article 6

The provisions of Articles 3, 4 and 5 of this regulation on crowd limitation and proximity limitation do not apply to children born in 2016 and later. Obligation to wear a mask according to Paragraph 2 Article 4 does not apply to children born in 2006 and later.

This regulation covers school activities as appropriate.

Article 3 *Number limit.*

The restriction on gatherings means that mass gatherings are prohibited during the period of validity of this regulation. Mass gatherings are defined as gatherings of more than 200 people, whether in public or private spaces, indoors or outdoors. Among other things, it is referred to:

- a. Conferences, seminars, outdoor meetings, etc.
- b. Teaching, lectures and exams.
- c. Entertainment, such as standing or sitting events and private parties.
- d. Activities of religious and life-viewing associations.

e. Other similar events with more than 200 people.

Furthermore, it must be ensured at all workplaces and in all activities that there are no more than 200 persons inside the same space at the same time. It must be ensured that there is no communication between spaces.

Despite paragraphs 1 and 2 museums are allowed to receive 75% of the maximum permitted number, although no more than 200 people in each space.

Article 4

General proximity restrictions and mask use.

At gatherings, all workplaces, shops, museums and schools and in all other activities, including those listed in Article 3, whether indoors or outdoors, it must be ensured that at least 1 meter can be kept between persons who are not closely related. However, elementary school students are exempt from proximity restrictions.

A face mask must be used where it is not possible to ensure proximity restrictions according to Paragraph 1, such as in health care, shops, museums, domestic flights and ferries, public transport, taxis and group vehicles, in practical driving lessons and flight lessons, activities of hairdressing salons, beauty salons, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, dog grooming salons, tanning salons and other similar activities.

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face masks used outside of healthcare must meet the requirements set out in the European Organization for Standardization (CEN) workshop agreement. The epidemiologist can set more detailed instructions on the requirements for face masks according to this provision. In services that require contact, care must be taken to wash and disinfect hands, and contact surfaces between customers must be disinfected.

Exempted from the mask obligation according to Paragraph 2 are those individuals who do not have the understanding or maturity to use a face mask correctly or are unable to do so for other reasons, such as due to health conditions.

Teachers and students born in 2005 and earlier are allowed in schools to take off their masks after sitting down in the classroom.

Article 5

Restrictions on activities due to special risk of infection.

Restaurants where the serving of alcohol is allowed, such as restaurants, cafes, pubs and entertainment venues, arcades and arcades must not be open longer than until 23.00 every day of the week. This means that it is not allowed to admit new customers after 23.00 and they must have left the place no later than 00.00. There may be a maximum of 100 guests in a room, and wine must be served to seated guests. Guests must be registered with name, social security number and phone number. The file shall be kept for two weeks and destroyed after that time.

It is not permitted to grant a temporary license for entertainment, such as concerts, dances, bonfires or other events that may attract a group of people after 23.00.

Despite the provisions of Article 3 regarding number restrictions, the number of guests at health and fitness centers and swimming and bathing facilities may never exceed 75% of the maximum number of guests allowed according to the work permit. If the maximum number of guests is not registered in the work permit, the number of guests must be based on the number that the changing room can accommodate. Devices and utensils must be disinfected between users. The Epidemiologist issues detailed instructions on health and fitness centers and swimming and bathing places due to COVID-19. This provision also covers bathing in nature as appropriate.

Sports practices and competitions for children and adults, indoors and outdoors, with and without contact, are allowed. Despite paragraph 1 Article 3 is the maximum number of people born in 2005 and earlier 100 people in a space. Changing facilities must be cleaned regularly and contact surfaces disinfected between groups. Shared utensils must be disinfected at least twice a day, ventilation must be in order and aired out regularly during the day. The same applies to seated board games, such as chess, bridge and bingo.

The maximum number of spectators at sporting events is 200 in a space and masks are required. It is obligatory to register spectators in numbered seats and to keep a register of visitors which must be kept for two weeks. The file must be deleted after that time. It is not allowed to sell refreshments at sporting events.

The Sports and Olympic Association of Iceland sets rules for special associations, such as on individual quarantine and disinfection of equipment, on the implementation of exercises and competitions in their disciplines in cooperation with an epidemiologist. In sports that do not belong to the Sports and Olympic Association of Iceland, guidelines must be set or the same guidelines that apply to similar sports within the association must be followed.

Performing arts, choral work, cinema screenings as well as other cultural events are home to up to 100 people on stage, i.e. rehearsals and performances. Care should be taken to clean hands, disinfect common equipment at least twice a day and ensure that ventilation is in order. Up to 200 seated guests may be received in each space and they must wear a mask except when consuming beverages or consumables. Breaks are allowed, but catering during breaks is not allowed. All guests must be registered in a numbered seat with name, social security number and telephone number. Shall keep the file for two weeks and delete it after that time.

Despite paragraph 1 Article 3 campsites and caravan sites are allowed to receive visitors in accordance with the instructions of the epidemiologist and the Norwegian Tourism Agency on quarantine measures in camping sites and caravan sites.

Article 6

Nursing homes and other healthcare institutions.

Healthcare institutions, nursing homes and other similar institutions are generally exempt from the provisions of the regulation, but must establish rules for their activities, such as external visits to the homes and institutions, proximity restrictions, maximum number of people in a space and protective equipment.

Article 7

Cleaning and disinfection of public spaces.

In all shops, public buildings and other high-traffic indoor places, clean as often as possible, especially common contact surfaces. In addition, the public and employees must be reminded of individual quarantines, such as verbally, with signs or signs. Good ventilation must also be ensured where there is a lot of traffic and air out regularly.

At all entrances, access to disinfectant liquid for hands and in as many places as is deemed necessary must be ensured, including at checkouts and shopping carts in stores.

Article 8

Exemptions.

The minister can grant an exemption from the restriction on gatherings to protect the life or health of people or animals or due to socially essential infrastructure that cannot be stopped, such as in

the fields of electricity, telecommunications, transport, waste collection, health activities, social services, law enforcement, medical transport, public defense assistance or fire brigade .

The same applies for systemically and economically important activities, such as to ensure food security, the distribution of essential goods or the economic security of the state through exports. Furthermore, the minister can grant an exemption due to the work of the Alþingi, the courts and the administration.

The minister can also grant an exemption from the restrictions when there is a special need, provided that the strictest quarantine measures are taken in other respects. When granting exemptions, efforts must be made to take other measures so that infection control is taken care of as much as possible.

The minister can request comments from an epidemiologist on requests for exemption.

Article 9 *Validity.*

This regulation, which is established with authorization in Article 12. quarantine act no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments, enters into force as prescribed in Article 2.

Disclaimer

Regulations are published in Section B of the Government Gazette according to Article 3 Act on Government Gazette and Lögbirtingablað, no. 15/2005, cf. regulation on the publication of Government Gazette no. 958/2005.

If there is a discrepancy between the text that appears here in the collection and what is published in the edition of Section B of the Official Gazette, the latter shall prevail.

Information

Ministry : Ministry of Health

First entered into force : July 25, 2021

Original release date : July 23, 2021

Last modified : August 14, 2021