

Dear all international residents in Vejle Kommune

When you decided to move to Denmark and to Vejle, I'm quite sure the current situation was not one you in any way anticipated. These are unprecedented times – both for Danes and for you, our international residents. Please know that we appreciate you being here and that we appreciate all and anything you do in order to help Denmark get safe through the Corona virus spread.

We are all bombarded with Corona news every day – sadly some more fake than others. In order to make sure that you are getting the right facts and information with regards to the situation in Denmark and Vejle in particular, please look at the sites listed below that provide important information in English.



Last night the authorities banned all gatherings of more than 10 people. Restaurants and cafés, clubs, malls and gyms have been told to close their doors – the same goes for businesses with close physical contact such as hairdressers and tattoo parlors. This came after the authorities declared a lock down last week, which entailed that all schools and daycares, universities and public institutions closed for at least two weeks starting this past Monday. All public servants have been told to work from home – with the obvious exception of critical staff i.e. people in healthcare, elder care and so forth.

Social distancing

We have all been asked to socially distance ourselves. Which in fact means to stay at home and limit our movement outside to only necessary journeys. That could include going to and from work for those who are still working, going to and from the pharmacy and grocery shopping – all though that too should be kept to a minimum. When going outside please take your precautions – be considerate, keep your distance, if coughing do so in your sleeve, avoid handshakes and wash your hands frequently.

The aim by socially distancing ourselves is to slow down the spread of the Corona virus in order for our health care system to be able to treat all critical cases. If the virus spreads too rapidly, the fear is that our hospitals and the health care system in general will simply be too overwhelmed. Some people have not understood the severity of the situation and have still gathered in smaller or larger groups believing that if they were to catch the Corona virus it wouldn't be worse than catching the normal flu. Let me stress, – as many other people have done so already – this is not a normal flu and we all risk spreading the virus to our elderly and vulnerable citizens, who are at risk of dying from this disease. We have to socially distance ourselves right now.

The borders have been closed – from both the Danish and German side, but travelling across is allowed for work. If you are crossing the borders, remember identification papers and papers proving your employment status. The situation is far from ideal for all those crossing the borders on a daily or regular basis, but it is deemed necessary in order to contain or at least cushion the Corona spread.

Actions taken in Vejle

In Vejle, we have had several crisis simulations over the years – including how to deal with an epidemic/pandemic - so to some degree we have been prepared. Our health crisis response team gathered as soon as the authorities indicated that we were heading towards a crises and the team has gathered on a daily basis since then.

The majority of our public workers are now working from home, which means that we have now closed down our offices and have limited contact with for instance the Citizens Service (Borgerservice) to phone or mail. The Jobcenter is closed, but benefits will still be paid, and even though schools and daycares are officially closed, we do offer emergency care. For more information and other changes please read the link below on actions taken by Vejle Municipality

Local businesses are struggling

Parliament has voted on emergency legislation that allows authorities both to prioritize patients and to enforce testing and isolation when deemed necessary. Parliament has also launched a couple of help packages in order to help businesses that are struggling right now and who might have to let people go. The packages – among other things – include a postponement of tax payments and a salary compensation so businesses can send workers home without having to fire them.

The Corona virus is no longer just a health crisis it is also an economic crisis and we as a local society have to do our part in order to help our local businesses. People are encouraged to shop locally, buy gift certificates now for later use in order to increase the cash flow, and so on, and we as a municipality are also looking at ways for us to help our local businesses.

Together apart

It is quite uplifting to see how the civil society is taking steps to help – whether it's supporting local businesses, providing food for neighbors who are quarantined, or just sharing important public information. We have often said in Vejle that in order to solve the problems we face as a society we have to work together. And if there is a silver lining in the Corona cloud, the community spirit is certainly one – a spirit of unity.

As the Queen said in her televised speech last night: This is the time to show unity while staying apart.

Thank you for doing your part.

Yours sincerely,

Jens Ejner Christensen
Mayor of Vejle

This is where you get official and accurate information:

Information from the official authorities:

<https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark/in-english>

Q&A from the National Health Authorities:

<https://www.sst.dk/da/Viden/Smitsomme-sygdomme/Smitsomme-sygdomme-AA/Coronavirus/Spoergsmaal-og-svar/Questions-and-answers>

Information from Vejle Municipality on Corona:

<https://www.vejle.dk/welcome-to-vejle/leisure-time/coronavirus-covid19-an-overview/>

Information on actions taken by Vejle Municipality (choose English as language in top bar):

<https://www.vejle.dk/borger/mit-liv/akut-hjaelp-og-kriseinfo/>