

Dear all international residents in Vejle Kommune.

I wanted to give you a quick update on the current situation with regards to the coronavirus and how we are dealing with it in Vejle.

Since my last message to you all, the virus has continued to spread around the world. I can only imagine how difficult it must be to not only deal with the coronavirus here in Denmark, but to also know that the virus is affecting your families and friends around the world. You and your families are in my thoughts.

After having been in a lockdown for the past three weeks, the Prime Minister announced Monday night that we are slowly beginning to open up Danish society again. Slowly being the keyword. All though more than 200 people have sadly lost their lives and almost 500 people are hospitalized, the numbers are stable and therefore the government has chosen to enter stage one of a reopening.

The first stage will begin on Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>. Daycares and kindergartens can open again, as well as schools for grades 0 to 5 and all classes for special needs children. Seniors in high school will also return in order to prepare for their final exams. Before we can reopen, we need to comply with a new set of rules laid down by the health authorities which includes extra cleaning, a plan to teach more outside, etc. If your child is among those who are set to return, you will be informed directly from your child's institution about how and when.

It is very important to note, that the institutions will only reopen, if we all are able to stay home and stay apart during Easter. If we ease up on the rules, the authorities are not going to let us implement the new plan.

### **Current restrictions prolonged**

During Monday night's press conference, the Prime Minister also announced that the current restrictions on social gatherings and so forth are prolonged until May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Restaurants and cafés, clubs, malls and gyms are to remain closed – the same goes for businesses with close physical contact such as hairdressers and tattoo parlors. Our local businesses are clearly struggling and we are at the municipality continuously working on how to provide help. We are also encouraging everyone to support our local businesses right now – however you can.

All public servants have been told to continue to work from home – still with the obvious exception of critical staff e.g. people in healthcare, elder care and teachers.

Workers in the private sector are also encouraged to work from home but the government and business association are currently also working on a plan to get people back to work in a safe way.

The borders will remain closed for now.



The ban on large gatherings has been prolonged until august 31<sup>th</sup>. Therefore many cultural events – such as Jelling Music Festival, Vejle Fjordfestival, cycling races, etc. – have sadly been cancelled.

Please follow our website <https://www.vejle.dk/welcome-to-vejle/leisure-time/coronavirus-covid19-an-overview/> for more information and the latest news on the development.

We all need to continue doing our part to get through this crisis. We need to stand together by staying apart, we need to follow the guidelines laid down by the health authorities, and we need to help each other the best way we can. We are all in it for the long haul.

Thank you for doing your part.

Yours sincerely,

Jens Ejner Christensen  
Mayor of Vejle