

## **Circular Note No. 8**

The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship would like to provide the following information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to the 28th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (MC).

### **Measures at MC to prevent the spread of Covid-19**

The MC will be conducted in accordance with the rules, regulations and recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Sweden and of other relevant Swedish government agencies. Necessary protective measures will be taken.

The MC will be organized to avoid congestion. Special attention has been given to the flow of participants at entry and exit points. Hand sanitizer dispenser stations will be located throughout the premises. Optional (voluntary) face masks will be available.

Recently announced restrictions for public gatherings and events indoors do **not** pertain the MC. The MC is closed to the public and is therefore not within the remit of the new measures. This includes the meeting venue and hotels, related functions, such as the official dinners and the media centre

### **Public Health Agency recommendations (in general)**

Delegates and participants are advised to inform themselves of restrictions and recommendations to prevent the spread of Covid-19. For the latest and full information, please refer to the website of the Public Health Agency ([www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se](http://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se)). The following information is particularly relevant to the MC.

Unvaccinated travellers are recommended to get tested for Covid-19 when they arrive in Sweden. Persons who have had Covid-19 within the last 6 months are exempt. Please contact your liaison officer for information on how to get such a voluntary test.

All persons with symptoms of respiratory tract infection (sore throat, fever, cough and a general feeling of illness) should take a Covid-19 test as soon as possible. This includes vaccinated persons. A test should also be taken if someone in the household shows symptoms. Persons who have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past six months are exempt.

All persons displaying symptoms should stay at home or self-isolate in their hotel room.

Those who have tested positive must stay at home or self-isolate in their hotel room for a minimum of 7 days and follow the rules in place for people infected with COVID-19.

Unvaccinated persons should keep their distance from other people and take extra steps to avoid close contact with people in risk groups and those aged 70 and above.

As of December 1 any person wishing to attend an indoor public gathering and event (i.e. in society in general, not the MC) with more than 100 participants may only be admitted upon presenting an EU Digital Covid Certificate (EUDCC) or an equivalent certificate issued by an approved state. Such gatherings and events must be open to the public and include demonstrations, educational lectures, religious practice, theatres, cinemas, artistic meetings, sporting events and dance. Private gatherings, shops, restaurants, public transportation, markets and exhibitions are not affected.

Please be advised that there is no general requirement to wear a face mask.

### **Health care resources at the MC and in Stockholm**

In case of an emergency please dial 112.

Medical and health care is the responsibility of Region Stockholm. A health care team consisting of a doctor and nurse will be present at XPO for medical emergencies. To get in touch with the team please turn to any MC support staff or your liaison officer.

There are several emergency care hospitals in Stockholm. VIPs will be admitted to Karolinska University Hospital.

For Covid-19-tests and/or contact with a doctor or nurse for non-emergencies, please refer to your liaison officer for further information.

## Departure information related to Covid-19

Many countries require a Covid-19 test before entering. Delegates are advised to inform themselves of what requirements apply to them. There is a large number of providers of PCR tests and antigen test in Stockholm. At Arlanda airport Sky City there are several test centres, some of which are open 24 hours a day:

ExpressCare: en.expresscare.se, [arlanda@expresscare.se](mailto:arlanda@expresscare.se), +46 (0) 10 204 10 00

Airport Sky Vårdcentral: [airportsky.se](http://airportsky.se), [vardcentralen@airportsky.se](mailto:vardcentralen@airportsky.se), +46 (0) 8 522 967 30

Läkarintyg Direkt Arlanda: [lakarintyg.se](http://lakarintyg.se), [info@lakarintyg.se](mailto:info@lakarintyg.se), +46 (0) 8 710 99 90

Apoteksgruppen: vaccina.se, [support@vaccina.se](mailto:support@vaccina.se), +46 (0) 8 121 343 03

Genetika: [genetika.se](http://genetika.se), [bokning@genetika.se](mailto:bokning@genetika.se) +46 (0) 73 595 90 18

Arlanda airport recommends wearing a face mask at the airport.

In case a person tests positive for Covid-19 while at the airport there is a special protocol to handle issues that may arise concerning safety, health, visa and a possible prolonged stay.

Please refer to the airport webpage: [www.swedavia.com/arlanda/before-your-journey](http://www.swedavia.com/arlanda/before-your-journey).