# Denmark

## COVID-19 cases

On 18th September 2020 there were 20,571 registered COVID-19 cases and 633 deaths in the overall population.[[1]](#endnote-1) To our knowledge, data on COVID-19 cases, deaths, job-loss, and poverty were not disaggregated by disability.

## Emergency, lockdown, and confinement

The was no official state of emergency in Denmark.[[2]](#endnote-2) Nevertheless, on 13th March 2020, the Danish Parliament enacted an emergency law that extended the powers of public health authorities and law enforcement and restricted access to public institutions and public transport. From April 6th these restrictions were gradually eased, but currently are reinforced due to growing COVID-19 cases.[[3]](#endnote-3) As of September 2020 persons several groups of persons with disabilities are exempt from wearing face masks on public transportation.[[4]](#endnote-4)

## Involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities

Danish government formed a formal partnership with Danish civil society including DPOs on 25th April 2020. The goal of this partnership was to develop new solutions and uncover new challenges faced by society during the COVID-19 crisis.[[5]](#endnote-5) As a result, government allocated €3 million to the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities for initiatives fighting loneliness and mental health consequences of the lockdown. According to the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, to protect the interests of persons with disabilities, they also advocated the for the rights of persons with disabilities to government institutions outside this partnership.[[6]](#endnote-6)

## Communications and announcements

Government communication focused on general COVID-19 risk groups. Nevertheless, information that was relevant to persons with disabilities was communicated directly to the target group (exemption to wear face masks).[[7]](#endnote-7) Due to the advocacy of Danish Deaf association, government press conferences on COVID-19 were available with sign interpretation and live captioning on all national TV networks.[[8]](#endnote-8) Moreover, the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities promoted the development of the national hotline.[[9]](#endnote-9) According to the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, information accessibility has improved with time.

## Institutions and closed settings

According to the International Long-Term Care Policy Network on 24th April 2020 there were 445 cases (12% of overall cases) and 133 deaths (31% of overall deaths) in community-based care homes.[[10]](#endnote-10) Visits of persons living in these care homes were prohibited. These restrictions were eased but were not entirely lifted.[[11]](#endnote-11)

## Healthcare

Healthcare services were suspended, for example, elective surgeries. We found no information regarding discriminatory policy of triage or admissions for treatment.

## Social protection

Welfare services targeted at persons with disabilities were labeled as critical services. Therefore, they were maintained during COVID-19 crisis.[[12]](#endnote-12)

1. WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard, Denmark, available at: https://covid19.who.int/table [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Information provided by EDF. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Institut Montaigne, Europe Versus Coronavirus - Putting the Danish Model to the Test, available at: <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/europe-versus-coronavirus-putting-danish-model-test> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Information provided by the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, 11September 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. EDF, COVID-19 RESPONSE: DENMARK, available at; <http://edf-feph.org/covid19denmark> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Information provided by the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, 11September 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Information provided by the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, 11September 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. EDF, COVID-19 RESPONSE: DENMARK, available at; <http://edf-feph.org/covid19denmark> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. The Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, New study: The corona crisis has had major consequences for people with disabilities, available at: https://handicap.dk/nyheder/ny-undersoegelse-coronakrisen-har-haft-store-konsekvenser-mennesker-med-handicap [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. International Long-Term care Policy Network, Country reports: COVID-19 and Long-Term Care, available at: https://ltccovid.org/country-reports-on-covid-19-and-long-term-care/ [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Information provided by the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, 11September 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Information provided by the Danish Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, 11September 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)