# Norway

## COVID-19 cases

On 17th September 2020 there were 12,277 registered COVID-19 cases and 265 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

There was no state of emergency in Norway,[[2]](#endnote-2) but a national lockdown was put in place from 16th March.[[3]](#endnote-3). Persons with disabilities were not considered a COVID-19 risk group. Therefore, there were no lockdown exceptions.[[4]](#endnote-4) According to the Norwegian Federation of Organizations of Disabled People some disability rights were put aside, for example, right to – health services, individual care, new service plans, support services for access to education of children with disabilities.

## Involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities

Formally DPOs were not involved in task forces or the development of national policy during or after the state of emergency. According to the Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People, DPOs participated in different public hearings representing the interests of persons with disabilities. They shared information about the situation and advised government institutions regarding information and policies aimed towards persons with disabilities.

## Communications and announcements

Press conferences were interpreted in sign language. Live captioning (CART) was mostly absent on majority of news channels broadcasting government communications and emergency announcement. Some text-based online media was accessible to persons using braille readers and/or synthetic voice generators. We found no information indicating that the government published information on COVID-19 in easy-to-read formats.[[5]](#endnote-5) According to the Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People the accessibility of announcements did not change through the pandemic, but it become more directed at people considered at risk from COVID-19.

## Institutions and closed settings

The official data show that on 5th August 2020 153 persons or 60% of the overall deaths from COVID0-19 were in institutional and closed settings.[[6]](#endnote-6) The National Institute of Public Health had received 51 reports of COVID-19 outbreaks (with two or more cases) in care homes and other institutions.[[7]](#endnote-7) According to the National Institute of Public Health the actual number of outbreaks in health institutions is probably higher, because not all outbreaks are reported. During the national lockdown persons living in institutions or closed settings were not allowed visitors. Assessments for specialist health services, individual care plans, communications with doctors and free choice of treatment were suspended.[[8]](#endnote-8) On May 27, the ban on visits was lifted and several patient rights were reintroduced.[[9]](#endnote-9)

## Healthcare

Patients with mild illness were advised to self-isolate and contact their doctor if symptoms worsen or do not pass by day 7. All patients with shortness of breath were advised to contact their doctor or go to the emergency department.[[10]](#endnote-10) All non-essential health, social and rehabilitation services were discontinued.[[11]](#endnote-11)

## Social protection

Schools and municipalities had to ensure that parents of children with disabilities or extended needs received services. According to Norwegian Federation of Organizations of Disabled People these exceptions did not function properly, leaving parents to take care of their children with disabilities with no support. Parents or family members of persons with disabilities were eligible for extensions to paid leave to maintain support.[[12]](#endnote-12) Moreover, there was a compensation for disability and patient organisations.[[13]](#endnote-13)

1. WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard, Norway, available at: https://covid19.who.int/table [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Information provided by EDF. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Norwegian government, Information for Norwegian citizens about travel and the coronavirus <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/foreign-affairs/reiseinformasjon/travel_coronavirus/id2691821/> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. National institute for public health, Advice and information for risk groups and relatives, available at: <https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/coronavirus/fakta/risikogrupper/> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. International Disability Alliance, Reaching Persons with Deafblindness during the Covid-19 pandemic, available at: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/covid-deafblind> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. National Institute of Public Health, COVID-19 weekly report, available at: <https://www.fhi.no/contentassets/8a971e7b0a3c4a06bdbf381ab52e6157/vedlegg/2020.08.05-ukerapport-uke-31-covid-19.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. National Institute of Public Health, COVID-19 weekly report, available at: <https://www.fhi.no/contentassets/8a971e7b0a3c4a06bdbf381ab52e6157/vedlegg/2020.08.05-ukerapport-uke-31-covid-19.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Ministry of Health and Care Services, Patient rights are reintroduced, available at: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/pasientrettigheter-gjeninnfores/id2704151/> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Ministry of Health and Care Services, Patient rights are reintroduced, available at: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/pasientrettigheter-gjeninnfores/id2704151/> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. COVID-19 Triage Systems and Case Fatality Rates: A Comparative Simulation Study Between Singapore, Japan, Norway, the USA and the UK, available at: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.28.20084079v2.full.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Information provided by Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People, 3 September 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. UNPRPD, Initial overview of specific social protection measures for persons with disabilities and their families in response to COVID 19 crisis, available at: <https://inclusive-policy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Overview-response_1.4.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Information provided by Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)