



UDENRIGSMINISTERIET



(This is a translation from Danish. Please consult the Danish original in case of uncertainty.)

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Guidelines for a responsible re-opening for business travellers in light of the COVID-19 outbreak

COVID-19 has deeply impacted every part of Danish society, including Danish businesses, Danish jobs, and Danish exports. The Government has taken many and comprehensive initiatives to mitigate the consequences of the outbreak. Danes and Danish businesses have closely observed the instructions of the public authorities, and the initiatives thus far have had the intended effects. Against this background and in careful consideration of the public health, it is now possible to expand the gradual re-opening of Denmark to include additional sectors. The Government has thus decided to ease access to travel to and from Denmark for business travellers.

Improved access for business travellers to and from Denmark is an important factor for businesses in Denmark that seek to re-establish their international activities and for the restoration of the Danish economy and employment in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. As an open economy with a small domestic market, Denmark is very dependent on international exports. An estimated 800,000 Danish jobs are linked to exports. Many Danish businesses depend on international travel by their sales representatives, specialised technicians, and consultants to sell their products and services and to fulfil existing contracts. Without real access to international business travel from Denmark, Danish businesses will lose orders and market shares. This can have long-term impacts on the Danish economy. It is equally important that Danish businesses have access to partners and investors travelling to Denmark from abroad. The re-opening of business travel will also help Copenhagen Airport maintain its position as the central hub for Scandinavian air travel, now and in the future.

As things stand currently, most businesses in Denmark are unable to engage in international business travel. Many countries have extensive entry restrictions and quarantine requirements in

place. Many air routes are not in operation. Existing Danish restrictions can also be an obstacle for business travellers. A number of countries also require documentation of the purpose of incoming travellers or a negative COVID-19 test result before granting exemption from quarantine requirements.

Improving access to business travel to and from Denmark is associated with significant challenges, many of which are expected to take some time to resolve – and, in many respects, we in Denmark are dependent on the actions of other countries.

Business travel from Denmark

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark has, as a minimum, advised against all non-essential travel abroad since 13 March. Businesses have largely decided to observe this advice, but in principle, business travel is not covered by this advice, as such travel is often considered essential travel.

It is thus up to the individual business to assess the extent to which travel is essential.

In recognition of the responsibility of businesses to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the advice for business travel recommends that businesses adopt a precautionary approach. First and foremost, this means assessing the necessity of travel on a case-by-case basis. Second, to follow the advice for business travel to minimise the risk that employees become infected with novel coronavirus/COVID-19 while abroad.

Advice for business travel has been prepared to specify the precautions businesses should take before, during, and after travelling. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark will also facilitate access to information about the current restrictions on entry and stays abroad, with the initial focus on selected major export markets.

As a special initiative for business travellers travelling to countries requiring documentation of a negative COVID-19 test, travellers will now have access to testing before departure from Denmark and be able to bring a certificate of the test result during their travels.

The test will be provided by Testcenter Danmark, which has established test centres across Denmark. Business travellers can book tests in one of two ways: by making an appointment at coronaprover.dk or by calling the national hotline on 7020 0233. The estimated waiting time for test results is currently 28 to 30 hours. A digital solution for issuing certificates is currently in development.

Precautions after returning to Denmark

In practice, the recommendation to stay at home for 14 days after travelling abroad has been a challenge for business travellers. However, it remains very important to reduce the risk that returning business travellers bring COVID-19 infection to Denmark.

Business travellers with residence in Denmark will thus be offered a COVID-19 test upon their

return. The test should be taken immediately after returning to Denmark – with the exception of very short trips, in which case the test should not be taken earlier than 4 days after the initial departure from Denmark. With a negative COVID-19 test, these business travellers will be exempt from the recommendation to stay at home for 14 days upon return to Denmark.

The test will be provided by Testcenter Danmark, which has established test centres across Denmark. Business travellers can book tests in one of two ways: by making an appointment at coronaprover.dk or by calling the national hotline on 7020 0233. The estimated waiting time for test results is currently 28 to 30 hours.

Business travel to Denmark

Business travel by persons without permanent residence in Denmark who meet the ordinary conditions for entry, e.g. visa requirements for certain third countries, is already recognised as a worthy purpose for entry into Denmark.

The guidelines for business travel to Denmark have been posted on the website of the Ministry for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs and on virksomhedsguiden.dk; the Danish police has also advised citizens and performed entry inspections at the border based on these guidelines. The guidelines state that business travel is permitted 1) in cases involving a trip or a meeting pertaining to a contract or similar, or 2) in cases without a pre-existing contract or similar, including study trips, participation in seminars, etc., conditional upon an individual assessment of the necessity of the meeting and whether it can be conducted without a physical presence.

Business travellers on trips involving an existing contract must present documentation of the contractual relationship, e.g. a signed contract. Business travellers on trips that do not involve an existing contract must present documentation of the planned meeting, in the form of an e-mail or other correspondence, and contact information of the relevant contact person for the meeting, who can confirm the meeting and the necessity of physical presence.

Business travel has so far not similarly appeared on the list of examples of worthy purposes for entry to Denmark on the common website of the Danish authorities, coronasmitte.dk, which may have caused uncertainty about when entry into Denmark is permitted for business travellers.

The list of examples of worthy purposes for entering Denmark on coronasmitte.dk will be updated with the following guide for business travellers, which clarifies that entry in connection with business travel is to a great extent considered a worthy purpose:

“Business travellers who, as part of their work, enter Denmark to participate in meetings or equivalent are considered as having a worthy purpose for entry, on the condition that these meetings or equivalent cannot be postponed or performed without the physical presence.

The business traveller must be able to present documentation, e.g. an e-mail, stating the nature of the business and the time and place of the meeting/work. This documentation must include an explanation of why it would be impractical to postpone the meeting or conduct it via a virtual

platform.

Furthermore, incoming travellers must present contact information for a relevant contact person in connection with the meeting/work in Denmark who can confirm the purpose and information stated by the foreign national.”

The information on virksomhedsguiden.dk regarding the entry of business travellers into Denmark will also be made available in Danish and English on the common website of the Danish authorities, coronasmitte.dk.

In continuation of existing recommendations, business travellers entering Denmark are not advised to self-isolate for 14 days after arrival, given that they are typically on short business trips lasting just a few days.

Special communication efforts targeting business travellers entering Denmark as well as their employers will be made to strengthen the awareness of how their actions and behaviour can help minimise the spread of COVID-19 infection. Employers have a special responsibility to help prevent the spread of infection.

On relevant websites of the Danish authorities – including coronasmitte.dk, um.dk, and the websites of Danish embassies – foreign business travellers will be able to find the Danish recommendations to prevent the spread of infection. These materials will also be shared with airlines serving airports in Denmark so that they can inform passengers prior to departure.

Guidelines for air travel

There are currently no separate Danish guidelines for air travel.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) announced guidelines for European air travel on Wednesday, 20 May 2020. In addition, since early March, EASA has issued a number of safety announcements for European airlines establishing certain guidelines for air travel.

The Ministry of Transport and Housing and the Ministry for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs will engage in dialogue with the aviation industry regarding implementation of the European guidelines in a Danish context, thus ensuring a responsible re-opening of air travel.

Until these efforts are completed, airlines and airports are generally advised to follow the international guidelines and recommendations of the health authorities. Additional inspiration for frontline personnel can be found in the Guidelines on responsible organisation of retail shops, etc. in light of the COVID-19 outbreak (in Danish “Retningslinjer om ansvarlig indretning af udvalgsvarebutikker i detailhandlen mv. i lyset af COVID-19”) and the Informational material providing guidance for private office workplaces.