Information about disease control in the greater Copenhagen area and the municipality of Odense

At an extraordinary meeting on Monday, 7 September 2020, the Danish health authorities made a new overall assessment of the current COVID-19 situation with particular focus on certain municipalities in the greater Copenhagen area and the municipality of Odense with a view to containing the spread of the disease in those areas as quickly and effectively as possible.

The situation in the greater Copenhagen area and the municipality of Odense remains a cause for concern due to several outbreaks and an increase in the number of infected people.

To effectively contain the spread of the disease, the following municipalities in the greater Copenhagen area are subject to the extraordinary, temporary measures until at least 22 September 2020 due to the increasing number of people who have lately been infected with the novel coronavirus or live in municipalities that have close links with municipalities with high infection rates:

- Albertslund
- Ballerup
- Brøndby
- Dragør
- Frederiksborg
- Gentofte
- Gladsaxe
- Glostrup
- Herlev
- Hvidovre
- Høje-Taastrup
- Ishøj
- Copenhagen
- Lyngby-Taarbæk
- Rødovre
- Tårnby
- Vallensbæk

Based on an overall assessment of the current COVID-19 situation, the health authorities have now introduced the following measures in the above municipalities in the greater Copenhagen area and in the municipality of Odense:

- The maximum number of people who can gather is reduced from 100 people to 50 people.
- The plan to extend the adjusted directions for Super League matches to other sports events does not apply to events in the greater Copenhagen area and the municipality of Odense.
- As from 9 September 2020, restaurants, bars, cafes etc. with the required licences can stay open only until 12.00 midnight.
- Citizens are encouraged to pay greater attention to the recommendations on social distancing in public spaces, at restaurants and at entertainment and cultural events, including the upcoming stricter requirements for social distancing at restaurants.
- Restaurants are encouraged to introduce voluntary registration of contact data of guests and hand over the data to the health authorities in connection with the tracking and tracing of outbreaks.
- The Danish Health Authority will introduce stricter requirements for the number of participants, social distancing, layout etc. in connection with private gatherings.
- It is recommended to organise as many activities as possible as outdoor events.
• All primary and upper secondary schools as well as institutions of higher education are recommended to cancel all social events.

• Employees at public and private workplaces are recommended to work from home if possible.

• Employees are encouraged not to go to work if they have any symptoms.

• Citizens are encouraged to avoid public transport where other means of transport are available – especially during rush hours.

• It is recommended to limit congestion in shops and to introduce additional disease prevention initiatives in the retail sector.

The recommendation is targeted at both shop owners and citizens and does not require legislation.

The recommendation is composed of several elements, such as:

- Only one family member at a time should do the shopping.
- Shop owners should prevent congestion in shops by allowing fewer customers access to the shop at the same time. Depending on the size of the shop, this can be achieved by, for example, signs clearly displaying the number of customers allowed in the shop at the same time. Large shops could perform this supervision at the entrance to ensure compliance.
- High hygienic standards should be maintained in the shopping area by frequent cleaning and the use of sanitizer.
- Shop owners should offer easy and visible access to sanitizer at the entrance to the shopping area and at key locations in supermarkets and other large shop and make sure that sanitizer dispensers are continuously refilled.

It is the responsibility of the individual business owners to comply with the above recommendations, and retail organisations, such as trade associations, are strongly encouraged to assume responsibility by facilitating the exchange of experiences and advice and supporting general compliance with the recommendations.

• Continued focus on preventing the disease from spreading and social outreach.

• All local governments in Denmark are encouraged to take inspiration from the measures introduced in the municipality of Odense and previously in the municipalities of Aarhus, Silkeborg etc. by spearheading and entering into binding partnerships with educational institutions, private business owners etc.

• The local authorities are encouraged to maintain or reestablish all special measures to prevent the disease from spreading in all their fields of administration (such as in the leisure, cultural and technical fields) or to launch new measures to prevent the disease from spreading.

• Massive information efforts from the Danish Health Authority targeted at citizens in the greater Copenhagen area and the municipality of Odense.

It should be pointed out that depending on the current COVID-19 situation in the greater Copenhagen area, it may become necessary to launch additional measures later to contain the disease. This will depend on future developments and could include:

• Additional measures, such as the use of face masks in all public spaces.

• A recommendation to introduce stricter requirements for social distancing and other preventative measures at primary and upper secondary schools as well as institutions of higher education. School managements are encouraged to prepare for such measures.