



Effective restrictions on gatherings

The [Regulation on restrictions on gatherings](#) due the pandemic enters into force on **28 August 2021** and will apply up to and including **17 September 2021**.

The Regulation does not apply to international airports or ports, international aviation or shipping, or to fishing vessels. Neither does the Regulation apply to healthcare institutions, nursing homes or other comparable institutions. These institutions set special rules on infection prevention measures.

Limits on the number of people do not apply to children born 2016 or later. The obligation to wear a mask does not apply to children born 2006 or later.

This Regulation applies to school activities, as appropriate.

Number limits, social distancing rules, face masks

Restrictions on gatherings

The **maximum number of people** allowed in the same location is **200 persons**, with certain restrictions, both in [public and private locations, outdoors and indoors](#). **From 3 September, the following also applies:** Up to **500 people** may attend an event if additional conditions are met, e.g. a negative result from a rapid antigen test. See below.

Restrictions on the number of people do **not apply to children born 2016 or later**. Restrictions on the number of people do not apply to public transport, coach travel, domestic flights, passenger ferries and the work of emergency response units (such as the police, fire-fighters, civil protection assistants and healthcare workers). Neither do such restrictions apply to the work of the Government, the State Council, the Alþingi (Icelandic Parliament), the National Security Council, or courts exercising their judicial powers.

Social distancing rules

At all workplaces and when performing other professional activities, people with no close link between them must keep a distance of **one metre** from each other.

The one-metre rule may be waived at **seated events, provided that all attendees are** assigned a specific seat with their name, ID No. and telephone number and wear a mask.

Face masks

Face masks must be worn indoors wherever the **one-metre social distancing rule** cannot be observed between people who are not closely linked, including at events where attendees are seated in assigned seats. Social distancing rules and the obligation to wear a mask does not apply to children born 2006 or later.

Face masks must also be used indoors where it is not possible to ensure a **one-metre social distancing**, such as in health care services, shops, museums, domestic flights and ferries, public transport, taxis and coaches, in practical driving lessons and flight training, hairdressers, beauty salons, massage parlours, tattoo parlours, dog grooming salons, tanning salons and other similar activities. **Face masks must cover the nose and mouth.**



Those who do not have the understanding or maturity to use a face mask correctly or are unable to do so for other reasons, such as health reasons, do not have to wear a mask.

Teachers and students born in 2005 or earlier may remove their masks in the classroom once everybody has sat down.

Professional activities involving particular infection risk

Events with seated guests:

Up to 200 persons may attend ceremonies held by religious and life stance associations, stage, cultural and sports events, conferences, lectures, and comparable events, provided that the following conditions are met. Social distancing rules do not apply to events where everybody is seated.

All guests must be registered to a **numbered seat** stating their **name, ID No.** and **telephone number**. This information must be kept on file for two weeks.

Everybody must wear a **face mask** indoors (except children born 2006 or later).

Performance intervals are permitted and refreshments may be sold at events. Social distancing of **one metre** must be observed during intervals.

From 3 September, the following applies: Up to 500 people may attend an event, subject to all the following conditions:

All attendees must present a **negative rapid antigen test** taken no longer than 48 hours in advance. NB. self-tests are not accepted.

All attendees must be **seated** and not facing each other.

All attendees must be registered by **name, ID No.** and **telephone number**. The registered data must be kept on file for two weeks and then destroyed.

All attendees must **wear a face mask indoors** until seated (except children born 2006 or later).

Various professional activities

Shops may admit **200 persons**, provided that it is possible to ensure a distance of at least **one metre** between persons with no close link between them. Access to **hand sanitiser** at **entrances** and near **surfaces touched** by large numbers of people, such as **touch keypads, shopping trolleys and cash registers**, must be ensured.

Performing arts, cinemas and other cultural events may have **up to 200 persons** on stage, i.e. during rehearsals and shows. Up to **200 seated attendees** may be accommodated in a given area, and they must wear face masks indoors. Seats must be numbered and registered with the attendee's name, ID No. and telephone number. Children born in 2016 and later are not included in this number. Refreshments may be sold during intervals. **From 3 September:** Please refer to the special rules for admitting up to 500 people in a given area, subject to certain conditions. See above.

Ceremonies held by religious and life stance associations may be attended by up to **200 persons**. The same applies to wakes, confirmation parties, and similar.

Restaurants licensed to serve alcohol may remain open until **11.00pm** seven days a week, admitting up to **200 people** and imposing the **one-metre** social distancing rules. **All diners must be registered** by name, ID No. and telephone number. Alcoholic beverages are to be served to seated diners. All diners must have left the premises by midnight.



Nightclubs and bars may remain open until **11.00pm** seven days a week, admitting up to **200 people**. Alcoholic beverages are to be served to seated customers. **All customers must be registered** by name, ID No. and telephone number. All customers must have left the premises by midnight.

Private gatherings at premises licensed to serve alcohol **may continue until after 11.00pm**, provided that alcohol is no longer served after that time and all attendees are registered and do not number more than **200**.

Slot machines and gaming rooms may remain open until **11.00pm**, admitting up to **200 people**. Alcoholic beverages are to be served to seated customers. All customers must have left the premises by midnight.

Swimming and bathing pools are open for a **maximum** permitted number of people.

Spas and gyms are open for a **maximum** permitted number of people. Equipment must be **disinfected** between users and all users must be registered. The use of **face masks** is recommended in common areas. **Ventilation and good access to hand sanitisers** and equipment disinfectant must be ensured, as well as **one-metre** social distancing.

Camping grounds and caravan sites may accommodate **200 persons** within each infection prevention area. Children born in 2016 and later are not included in this number. Infection prevention areas may be indoors or outdoors. People with no close link between them must keep a distance of one metre from each other. Contacts between separate travel groups must be kept to a minimum.

Museums may receive the maximum permitted number of people, with no more than **200** in any given space.

Temporary permits may not be granted for social gatherings, such as concerts, dances, bonfires or other events which may be expected to draw crowds after 11.00pm.

Sports activities organised by the National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland (ÍSí)

Indoor and outdoor sports activities, whether for children or adults, are permitted. The maximum number of people in each area is **200 persons**. Preventive measures must be employed and shared equipment disinfected after use. **Ventilation must be adequate** and areas must be regularly ventilated with fresh outside air.

Sport competitions for children and for adults are permitted and up to **200 seated** spectators may be accommodated. Spectators must wear face masks indoors. Seats must be numbered and registered with the name, ID No. and telephone number of the spectator. The rules for seated events must be observed. See above. The sale of refreshments at competition venues is permitted.

For sports not under the aegis of the ÍSí, separate guidelines must be established or the same guidelines as for comparable sports within the ÍSí must be followed.

Workplaces, shops, public buildings and services

Social distancing of **one metre** must be ensured between persons in the same area, as must the appropriate maximum number. There should be no contact between different areas.

Infection prevention

Surfaces commonly touched by many people, such as door handles and handrails, must be properly **cleaned and disinfected** as often as possible.

Access to hand sanitiser at entrances and near surfaces touched by large numbers of people, such as touch keypads, shopping trolleys and cash registers, must be ensured.



Markings and signs should be used to remind the general public and employees of the personal infection prevention measures in place.

FAQs

Responses to common questions about the [pandemic](#), [infection routes](#), [quarantine](#), [isolation](#) and [vaccinations](#).

[Breaches of infection prevention rules may be punishable by a fine.](#)

Related content

About this page

The Directorate of Health and The Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management are responsible for this website.

