LUNDS UNIVERSITET

MEMORANDUM

Date 16 March 2020

Occupational Health Service Division
Head of Divison Anne Link

Regarding the duty to protect in accordance with the Swedish Communicable Diseases Act in diagnosed cases of Covid-19

Body text

Responsibility of the diagnosing doctor

The physician who identifies the disease is, in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act, obligated to report it to the region's chief medical officer for communicable disease control, who in turn has overall responsibility for communicable disease control in the region. The chief medical officer's response is in accordance with the Swedish Public Health Agency's recommendations and rules, which may include contact tracing and decisions on the need for isolation/quarantine. The diagnosing physician is to provide the infected person with information, rules of conduct and advice on hygiene.

- Read more about the Communicable Diseases Act at 1177.se (in Swedish)
- Contact details for Smittskydd Skåne (Office of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Region Skåne)

Responsibilities of the individual (employee/student)

According to the Communicable Diseases Act, a person who has a communicable disease must do what is required to protect others from infection (the so-called duty to protect). This means that during the period in which you may be contagious, you should not meet people other than those who live in your household and you should not travel using public transport. You should try to keep distance from those you live with if possible, e.g. by staying in your own room. You can go outside as long as you keep distance from other people. You must inform your household contacts and others with whom you have close contact that you have Covid-19.

You must also take part in contact tracing. You will receive information about this process when you get your test result.

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Employees and students are obligated to follow the employer's and education provider's recommendations respectively to reduce the spread of infection.

- Covid-19 patient information sheet – Office of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Region Skåne, PDF (Swedish)
- Covid-19 patient information sheet for infected household members – Office of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Region Skåne, PDF (Swedish)

Responsibilities of the employer

From the perspective of the Work Environment Act, the employer is to have conducted a risk assessment based on the Swedish Public Health Agency's recommendations and drawn up an action plan in order to comprehensively reduce infection and its spread. These documents need to be reviewed in the event of a new infection and updated and communicated to those affected, when required. Contact the Occupational Health Service for support in risk assessments via Foretagshalsovarden@fhv.lu.se.

When infection is identified, the employer is to act as support for the infected person by, if possible, providing the contact details of the individuals they may have been in contact with e.g. other students, teaching staff, colleagues or service staff.