



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET

MEMORANDUM
1 July 2020

Occupational Health Service
Head of division Anne Link

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

Responsibilities of the diagnosing physician

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)

[The physician's role](#) (in Swedish)

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 they may be contagious, the person is to avoid meeting any people other than those who live in the same household. During this period, the person who is ill must also inform household contacts and others who they have been in contact with. This is done in dialogue with the diagnosing physician.

The person who is ill is to try to maintain a distance of at least one metre, but preferably two, from the people in their immediate circle, e.g. by being in another room, not eating with others and not sharing a bathroom.

During the contagious period, the person is not to travel on public transport.

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

[Information for individuals with confirmed Covid-19](#) (in Swedish)

[Information for individuals who have been in contact with a person who has Covid-19](#)

Responsibilities of the employer

From the perspective of the Work Environment Act, the employer has 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.

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.