



PREVENTING COVID-19 INFECTION AMONG FOREIGN WORKERS IN SHARED HOUSING



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Whenever employers make housing available to visiting workers, they must meet a number of requirements to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The housing set-up and conditions must prevent the spread of infection among residents and reduce the likelihood of passing on the infection to workplaces and the general public.

TOP SIX RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Self-isolate if you have symptoms of COVID-19, if you have tested positive or are a close contact of someone who is infected.



2. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitiser.



3. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.



4. Do not shake hands, kiss cheeks or hug.



5. Clean thoroughly, both in your dwelling and at the workplace.



6. Keep your distance and ask others to be considerate.

CLEANING YOUR DWELLING

Frequent cleaning of common contact points – such as handles, switches, water taps, tabletops, etc. – is crucial. In most cases, ordinary cleaning with soap and water is sufficient, but this can be supplemented by subsequent disinfection, after specifically assessing the situation and being precautionary.

Floors must be washable. Furniture and mattresses should have washable casings/upholstery. Pillows, duvets, rugs, etc., should be washable: fabric upholstery/casings that withstand washing in a washing machine are best. Furniture should also be able to withstand the use of ordinary disinfectants.

Signposting, instructions and hand hygiene

The top six recommendations (see above) must be listed on signs, and there should be instructions in where, how and how often cleaning must be done. See the Danish Health Authority's 'Prevent infection' poster here

➔ www.ssi.dk

In this context, employers or personnel affiliated with the individual housing facility have a duty to instruct residents in cleaning routines.

Good hand hygiene must be supported as an effective method to prevent transmission via objects, hands and face.

Housecleaning checkpoints

- ➔ Identify and mark off common contact points, such as door handles and pushbuttons. For instance, set up small signs on doors and light switches to remind residents to use their elbow instead of fingers.
- ➔ Clean common contact points frequently and thoroughly.
- ➔ Ensure easy access to washbasins and hand sanitiser and place liquid soap at each washbasin.
- ➔ Set up hand-sanitiser stations wherever residents gather and near objects touched by many people.
- ➔ Continuously refill hand sanitiser and liquid soap containers.
- ➔ Do not use bath towels, tea towels or dish cloths, but use disposable towels and similar instead. .
- ➔ Clean the room whenever a resident moves out. Clean and disinfect mattresses before reusing them.
- ➔ Wash towels and bed linen as required and wash at a minimum temperature of 60° C. If bed linen is to be used by a new resident, it must be washed at a minimum temperature of 60° C before reusing it.

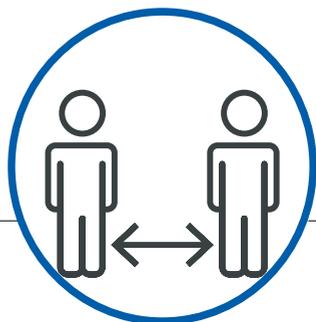
General information about distancing requirements, marking off and indoor climate in the shared housing:

It must be possible to keep a physical distance between residents, i.e. it must be possible for everyone to keep themselves at a distance of one (1) metre from one another at all times. The distance is measured from 'nose tip to nose tip'.

Do not allow small rooms to be overfilled with residents. A good rule of thumb is that each person should have four square metres at his/her disposal when sharing the same space, such as a common room, with others..

It must be easy for residents to keep a distance of 1 meter by marking off lines on the floor or similar. This is particularly true in areas where queues often form, such as in the dining room or outside toilets.

It must be possible to air out dwellings to achieve satisfactory air quality and relative humidity levels. Examples: air out by opening windows or doors or by using a mechanical ventilation system.



Checkpoints for sleeping quarters/lounges

- Provide one bed per resident so no one shares a sleeping space or bed linen with anyone else without thorough cleaning in between.
- One locker, cabinet dresser or similar in which to store personal possessions. It is beneficial if this unit is lockable.

Checkpoints for common rooms

- Set these rooms up so there are 4 m² of floor space per resident. If necessary, post a sign indicating the maximum number of people who may be in the room at one time.
- Make hand sanitiser available in common rooms.

Kitchen checkpoints

- Organise kitchens so there are a sufficient number of workstations to the number of residents. If necessary, post a sign with the maximum number of people who may be in the kitchen at any time.
- Cooking food outside kitchen areas is not advisable.
- Kitchens must be equipped with cutlery, glasses and other tableware for the number of residents using the kitchen.
- Each resident should have access to units for storing and refrigerating his/her own food.
- Use individual helpings for communal dining. After the meal, the resident should clean up after himself/herself. Encourage hand hygiene before and after each meal, and disinfect surfaces after communal dining.
- Clean kitchens often and make cleaning agents available. Residents should clean their own workstation after cooking (wipe down worktops, clean kitchen utensils, etc.).
- Hand sanitiser must be available in kitchens.

Toilet and bathing facility checkpoints

- The toilet and bathing facilities must be sufficient in proportion to the number of residents. All rooms with a toilet must be furnished with a washbasin in the same room or the anteroom.
- Place disposable paper towels and liquid soap next to the washbasin.
- Post the recommendations for correct hand-washing, translated into relevant languages, with pictures. Make hand sanitiser available next to washbasins/in bathrooms. See the handwashing guide here
 ➤ www.baujordtilbord.dk
- Inform residents not to share towels, neither for handwashing nor showering.
- Inform residents to refrain from leaving personal hygiene toiletries (toothbrushes, razors, etc.) in shared toilet and bathing facilities.
- Clean shared toilets daily and as required. Frequently clean and, if possible, air out bathing facilities. The employer must provide cleaning agents to residents.



ISOLATION OF INFECTED EMPLOYEES – OR SUSPICION OF COVID-19 INFECTION

Effective isolation of infected persons living in the same housing unit is crucial for preventing the transmission of COVID-19 to others.

If an individual is infected, he/she must self-isolate if he/she has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with an infected person.

The employer must ensure that self-isolation is possible for individual employees if the employer has made this dwelling available to them.

To determine where employees should self-isolate, it is possible to contact the municipality, which can refer individuals to municipal isolation facilities.

During the isolation, it is crucial to ensure:

- that any employee having symptoms is isolated from other residents in the building, even if he/she does not feel ill,
- that whenever an isolated employee must leave the dwelling (to be tested, for example), he/she wears a face mask,
- that other residents are particularly aware of COVID-19 symptoms over the next 14 days and that they self-isolate if this becomes expedient, and
- that the dwelling is frequently and thoroughly cleaned and that the six general recommendations for preventing infection continue to be observed.

Read more about preventing COVID-19 infection:

➔ www.sst.dk/da/Udgivelser/2020/Forebyggelse-af-smittespredning-med-ny-coronavirus-i-boliger-for-tilrejsende-arbejdstagere



