



BORLÄNGE

Information from the Borlänge Municipality Office of the Environment regarding food and COVID-19

This information is addressed to food companies.

Remember that regulations and general guidelines from authorities can change quickly. Follow updates daily at <https://www.krisinformation.se/> and [borlange.se](https://www.borlange.se) <https://www.borlange.se>

Summary:

Pursuant to the Communicable Diseases Ordinance, the Public Health Agency of Sweden now prescribes that restaurants, bars and cafés, etc. throughout Sweden need to take special steps to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19. There may be no crowding of people in queues, at tables, buffets or bar counters. Guests must be able to maintain a distance from each other. Everyone that serves food or beverages must first review how they can prevent the spread of infection in their own business.

Below are a few frequently asked questions related to the regulation “Public Health Agency of Sweden’s regulations and general guidelines on preventing the spread of COVID-19 at restaurants and cafés, etc.” HSLF-FS 2020:9

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/contentassets/419aae6d128c4f43ac87ea785ec9d7b3/hslf-fs-2020-9.pdf>

Frequently asked questions

[What businesses are covered by the regulation?](#)

Restaurants, bars, cafés, school cafeterias, employee canteens, catering businesses, nightclubs and other businesses that serve food or beverages to their guests.

[What does this mean to me as an operator of a business covered by the regulation?](#)

The regulation means that restaurants, bars, cafés, school cafeterias and nightclubs, etc. must make certain changes to their businesses. The businesses must ensure that crowding does not occur, as it entails a major risk for the spread of COVID-19.

Among other things, this means that it is no longer possible to have sales at a bar counter with many guests crowding around it or that the guests who are standing and waiting to order or be served stand too close to each other. If it is possible to let the guests order and pick up their food at a counter without crowding, it is permissible. The food and beverages must always be consumed sitting.

Businesses that are covered by the regulation must take appropriate steps to ensure that crowding does not occur. One way to avoid this may be to introduce a queue ticket system and having the guests wait their turn outside the business premises. The tables in the premises may, for example, be moved so that they are not too close to each other. Another suitable way to be able to avoid crowding in queues may be to mark on the floor how far away from each other the guests should stand.

[Self-inspection to combat the spread of infection](#)

Everyone in the community must contribute to preventing the spread of COVID-19 through awareness and reasonable precautionary measures. This regulation places extensive responsibility on the businesses covered by it. As a part of their self-inspections, they must therefore repeatedly conduct risk assessments and ensure that crowding and such spread of COVID-19 that can lead to serious consequences for society do not occur in the business.

[How is it checked that the regulation is being followed?](#)

The Communicable Diseases Act states that everyone in the community must contribute to preventing the spread of infectious diseases through awareness and reasonable precautionary measures. The intention of the regulation is to reduce the risks of the spread of COVID-19 and not to close down restaurants and cafés, etc.

[Can the Infectious Diseases Officer close down a business that does not follow the regulation?](#)

Yes. The Infectious Diseases Officer has the task of cooperating with municipal committees that fulfil roles in the area of the environment and health protection. After consultations with the municipality, the infectious diseases officers can close down the businesses that do not follow the regulation.

[What distance between guests is enough to avoid crowding?](#)

It is difficult to define what crowding is since no two premises and businesses look the same. A guideline may be to keep a little more than an arm's length from each other.

[Is it permitted to order over a counter at a restaurant and then sit down while waiting to be served, or must the order also be placed at the table?](#)

If it is possible to let the guests order and pick up their food without crowding, this is fine. Food and beverages must always be consumed sitting at a table.

[Will it be permitted to continue with a buffet where a guest takes food and then sits down?](#)

Yes, if the guests can take their food without crowding, it is permissible. In the event of queuing, there should be an arm's length distance between the guests.

[Can the guests at a café order coffee at the counter and then sit down at a table of their choosing?](#)

Yes, but the guest must not stand and crowd with other guests in front of the counter.

[May guests sit and eat at a bar counter?](#)

Yes, if this is possible without crowding, guests can be allowed to sit and eat at the bar counter.

[Will fast-food stands will permitted to continue serving through a hatch?](#)

Yes, this is fine as long as crowding in front of the stand is avoided.

[Do the same rules apply indoors and outdoors?](#)

Yes, the same rules apply both indoors and outdoors.

[May guests stand in a queue at fast-food restaurants?](#)

Yes, but there may be no crowding in the queue. Guests must be able to stand with some distance between them.

[Can nightclubs still stay open?](#)

Yes, but the nightclub operator must make sure that the guests can stay at least an arm's length from each other.