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Factsheet for case **DK-2020-17/786**

COVID-19 is recognized as a work injury

Factsheet generated on 08 May 2020, 07:42

Country	Denmark, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, started on 22 April 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Protection of workers at the workplace – Occupational health and safety
Case created	25 April 2020 (updated 07 May 2020)

Background information

The Danish government has taken measures to recognize COVID-19 as a work injury, if they are infected at their place of work. Minister of Employment, Peter Hummelgaard, opens the press release about the measure by stating his condolences over a nurse who contracted the virus and died. Thus, especially mentioned are workers in the healthcare sector, who due to their work are close to infected people and therefore are at risk of infection themselves. This means that the workplace is liable for any costs related to the disease, as opposed to the individual themselves.

Legal reference: VEJ nr 9210 af 21/04/2020 (Gældende)

Content of measure

The measure covers people who are infected by the COVID-19 during their working hours, as a workplace injury, which naturally emphasizes the healthcare sector as a particularly targeted sector, although other sectors are not necessarily excluded.

It is hard to say how much money is going to be put towards this measure, as the communication in the legal text also notes. The knowledge of the full extent of long-term effects of the COVID-19 virus is so far limited. It will also depend on how intensely sick the worker will become, which has proven to vary quite significantly.

Use of measure

Not yet known

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	Companies providing essential services	No special funding required

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	Other

The Medical Association (Lægeforeningen) and others pressured the government into strengthening the rules for compensation regarding the COVID-19 virus in the workplace. However, in a recent article it is expressed that Lægeforeningen does not find that the new legislation goes far enough in protecting workers from COVID-19 risks

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 22 April 2020: Vurdering af arbejdsskadesager om sygdom med COVID-19 (bm.dk)
- 25 April 2020: COVID-19 overview page Ministry of Labour (bm.dk)
- 27 April 2020: Læger frygter, at nye regler for arbejdsskadeerstatning efter COVID-19 ikke er gode nok (www.laeger.dk)
- 30 April 2020: COVID-19 can now be recognized as an occupational injury (socialraadgiverne.dk)