



The Health Board's instructions for employers regarding the accommodation of seasonal workers and in organising SARS-CoV-2 testing

- COVID-19 is an infectious viral disease which spreads from person to person by means of the projection of aerosols, mainly through close contact with infectious persons.
- If the conditions are favourable, the virus can survive on contaminated surfaces for up to three days, but it can be destroyed by cleaning and disinfection.
- The risk of the spread of COVID-19 is at its highest in enclosed, crowded, and poorly ventilated rooms.
- The aim of the instructions is to provide advice for providing proper accommodation and organising SARS-CoV-2 testing for seasonal workers.

General requirements

- The building must be compliant with the latest requirements which are applicable to such buildings.
- The premises, sanitary installations, and equipment that is provided to seasonal workers must be functional, clean, and safe for the user if they are being used for their intended purpose.
- The premises must be supplied with electricity and safe drinking water that meets current standards. The hot water supply must provide hot water around the clock that is of a temperature of at least 65°C.
- Proper waste removal and wastewater treatment must be ensured.

The cleanliness of the premises and proper ventilation

- The rooms, bathrooms, and toilet should advisably be ventilated by natural or mechanical means of ventilation.
- Any waste which may have been contaminated with the virus (such as tissues, masks, etc) should be disposed of pursuant to the following instructions: www.envir.ee/et/uudised/koroonajaatmed-tuleb-teistest-eemal-hoida.
- General lighting should ensure uniform, diffused lighting in public areas, in the dwellings themselves, and in bathrooms and toilets.
- There should be an optimum air temperature in the dwellings (of at least 18°C).
- The employer or individual who has invited seasonal workers must ensure - prior to the arrival of any such workers - that during their stay and following their departure the accommodation premises have been properly cleaned.
- All rooms and surfaces must be cleaned pursuant to [the Health Board's advice in terms of cleaning and disinfection](#).

Requirements for accommodation

- The place of accommodation for seasonal workers should advisably be equipped with laundry facilities. The personal laundry of an individual who is suspected of having contracted the virus must be machine-washed at a temperature of at least 60°C.
- The minimum permitted surface area for the accommodation premises is 4m² for each bed or bunk bed.
- There must be a gap of at least two metres between beds. If it is not possible to ensure the required two-metre gap between beds then gaps of at least one metre must be left between them and the beds must be separated by using partition walls and screens.
- If possible there should be at least one bathroom for every twelve beds within any accommodation for seasonal workers. The number of people who use the bathroom at any one



time should be restricted so that bathroom users can maintain their social distancing, which could be achievable in several ways such as, for example, by drawing up a schedule for using the bathroom.

- If possible there should be at least one men's and one women's toilet for every twelve beds within any accommodation for seasonal workers.
- If there is enough room within the place of accommodation, it is advisable to accommodate together in one room those people who have arrived together and who will work on the same shift.

The employer

- The employer must notify all employees of the requirements which have been established and advice which has been issued by the state in connection with the spread of COVID-19 (<http://www.kriis.ee/en>; www.terviseamet.ee/en/covid19).
- The employer should think in advance about the conditions and circumstances that may be required in terms of the potential temporary isolation of an employee who exhibits the symptoms of an infectious disease.
- If a seasonal worker falls ill, the employer must observe the instructions entitled '[Advice for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases](#)'.

Testing seasonal workers for SARS-CoV-2

- Pursuant to order No 282 by the Government of the Republic of Estonia dated 16 May 2020 which is entitled 'Restrictions on freedom of movement and on holding meetings and organising public events that are necessary for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19', any individuals who arrive in Estonia from third countries where such third countries have experienced a rate of new cases over the last fourteen days that has exceeded a figure of sixteen cases for every 100,000 people must be tested twice for SARS-CoV-2; first upon their arrival in Estonia and again not before the tenth day of their stay in Estonia.
- Various providers of healthcare services who supply paid coronavirus testing services for employers can be approached in order to organise testing (such as Medicum, Synlab, Confido, Corrigo, Qvalitas, Fertilitas, etc).
- The service provider will organise testing at their reception or testing points. In certain cases the involved parties can agree on a testing location for a group of employees which is convenient for all parties.
- The cost of one test is approximately 80 euros, but prices may vary to some extent, depending upon the service provider. The prices are published on the websites of the service providers themselves.

Guidelines and advice are available at:

[The Health Board's COVID-19-related publications and instructions](#)

[The Labour Inspectorate's advice to the employer and employee](#)