



NORWEGIAN ARMED FORCES

Information about the Corona virus for participants at Cold Response

The Norwegian Armed Forces (NAF) has an increased awareness concerning the international spread of the virus SARS-cov-2 and the subsequent disease covid-19.

As a response to the current situation, the Norwegian Armed Forces Joint Medical Services (NAFJMS) have asked units in the Armed Forces to establish routines in order to prevent the introduction of the virus to military units, and to prevent further spread of the virus should it be detected in Norway.

Primarily, the NAFJMS refer to the general advice given by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NPHI), <https://www.fhi.no/en/id/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/> as well as the NPHI risk analysis (in Norwegian only) published on their website.

Secondly, the NAFJMS encourage all units to have an increased focus on personal hygiene (including respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette and proper hand hygiene procedures), and to prepare for the isolation and possible testing of personnel showing symptoms of covid-19 as described by the NPHI. The isolation, testing and subsequent tracing of contacts will be done in cooperation with the NPHI, the Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Norwegian Public Health Services.

Concerning the exercise Cold Response 2020, NAFJMS have distributed an information package to the Norwegian ROLE 1, ROLE 2 and "Patient Holding Facilities" in order to prepare them for the possible situation of detection and spread of the virus within Norway.

To reduce the risk of introduction and spread of SARS-cov-2, as well as other communicable diseases such as influenza, to national and allied military units in Norway the Norwegian Armed Forces expect all participating nations to take measures prior to entering Norway;

- NAF expects nations to monitor the situation in the area of embarkation/origin of the personnel, and to exclude personnel from the exercise that either through their contacts or through the area of origin represents an increased risk of transferring the virus.
- NAF expects nations to develop plans in order to prohibit the re-entry in to the exercise for personnel that have been on leave in areas were the virus is detected while the personnel were in this area.

Finally, NAF will state that all participating units must comply with orders from the organiser (high command), as well as advice and guidance from the public health services, to avoid the introduction, possible spread and subsequent of SARS-CoV-2 in Norway.

The situation will be subject to continuous evaluation.