



Til:  
NySMAC  
All visitors to Ny-Ålesund

*Deres referanse:*

*Vår referanse:*

Ny-Ålesund, March 2. 2020

## **Coronavirus and visitors to Ny-Ålesund**

The Corona virus is spreading, no cases have been reported on Svalbard yet, the virus is likely to arrive here too, sooner or later.

In Ny-Ålesund we are particularly vulnerable to a corona virus type of situation, both because we have no hospital or doctor on-site, and because we typically have only one person on duty to fill every position. This means, for instance, that all fixed wing air traffic will come to a halt should our air traffic controller fall sick. In effect, only a few people being infected could close down the whole community.

Kings Bay would therefore appeal to all visitors who are, or feel, ill at the time of their planned departure for Ny-Ålesund to contact a doctor and check if they are infected by the Corona virus before they leave home. One infected person can be enough to close down the whole community for at least 14 days, without the possibility for anyone to leave Ny-Ålesund in that time period.

Kings Bay kindly asks all NySMAC representatives to inform scientists who plan to visit Ny-Ålesund to abstain from going if there is any chance that they might be infected by the virus.

Let us all work together to keep the virus away from Ny-Ålesund.

Kind regards

Per Erik Hanevold  
Director Kings Bay