

Epidemic to 'die out on its own' in Denmark, for now

May 6 2020



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The COVID-19 epidemic is expected to disappear in the short term in Denmark, according to a report by researchers who warned however of a "considerable risk" of a second wave.

The report was released by the Danish health agency SSI, which operates under the [health ministry](#) and is responsible for the surveillance of infectious diseases.

"It is highly likely that the [epidemic](#) dies out on its own if the current level of closures continues," it said.

The researchers added that the epidemic was expected to die out even with a reopening of businesses, if [social distancing](#) was maintained, but stressed that "this is in the short term".

Noting the level of immunity in the Danish population was currently low, the report, drawn up for politicians mulling a second phase of easing, warned of "a considerable risk that a second wave of the epidemic will come later".

On April 15, the country started reopening pre-schools and resuming classes for the youngest primary school children—under strict social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

Since then the [reproduction rate](#), or infection rate, of the disease has risen from 0.6 to 0.9, according to SSI, but a rate lower than one still means the number of new cases is going down.

With more than 10,000 cases confirmed, Denmark has recorded 506 deaths from COVID-19.

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Citation: Epidemic to 'die out on its own' in Denmark, for now (2020, May 6) retrieved 30 March 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-epidemic-die-denmark.html>

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