



Register description

EU General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679)

2 February 2021

## **Case-specific register under section 39 of the Communicable Diseases Act for tracing and tracking Covid-19**

### **1. Controller**

The social services and health care committee. The tasks of the controller have been delegated to the head of the social services and health care division (by decision of the social services and health care committee, 26 February 2019, section 32)

### **Contact information**

Social Services and Health Care Division

Toinen linja 4 A

PO Box 6060

00099 CITY OF HELSINKI

### **2. Person responsible for the register**

#### **Job title**

Chief Physician of Epidemiological Operations

### **3. Contact person of the register**

#### **Job title**

Physician of Epidemiological Operations

#### **Contact information**

Social Services and Health Care Division

Toinen linja 4 A

PO Box 6090

00099 CITY OF HELSINKI

### **4. Purposes and legal grounds for the processing of personal data**

#### **Purposes of processing**

The purpose of the processing is the tracing and tracking of the contagious Covid-19 disease. According to section 9 of the Communicable Diseases Act, municipalities are obliged to organise the control of communicable diseases pursuant to the Communicable Diseases Act as part of public health services as set out in the Primary Health Care Act (66/1972), the Health Care Act (1326/2010) and in the Communicable Diseases Act.

According to the Communicable Diseases Act, communicable disease control includes the prevention, early identification and tracking of communicable diseases, the measures required for investigating or controlling the epidemic, the examination, treatment and medical rehabilitation of persons who have a communicable disease or are suspected of having a communicable disease, as well as the prevention of healthcare-associated infections.

The data of the register are also used for planning the tracing and tracking of the communicable disease, the development of a pandemic response and for research purposes.

## **Legal grounds for processing**

Article 6, section 1c of the EU GDPR, statutory obligation of the controller.

The processed special categories of personal data comprise health care and social welfare data. Processing is permitted by article 9, section 2, point h, according to which data processing is permitted in the event that it is necessary for the provision of health and social care.

## **Key legislation**

- EU General Data Protection Regulation (679/2016)
- Data Protection Act (1050/2018)
- Communicable Diseases Act (1227/2016)
- Health Care Act (1326/2010)
- Primary Health Care Act (66/1972)
- Act on the Status and Rights of Patients (785/1992)
- Decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health on the Preparation and Preservation of Patient Documents (298/2009)
- Act on the Electronic Processing of Client Data in Healthcare and Social Welfare (159/2007)
- Government Decree on Voluntary Covid-19 Vaccinations (1105/2020)
- Act on Health Care Professionals (559/1994)
- Archives Act (831/1994)
- Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999)
- Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003)

## **5. Register data content**

The register contains data concerning communicable diseases or microbe findings, the means, time and location of the transmission and the provided care to the extent necessary for the prevention of communicable diseases or the investigation of communicable disease epidemics and for controlling their spreading. The patient's name,

personal identification number, contact information and municipality of residence constitute their personally identifiable information. For the purpose of tracking infections, persons with a positive SARS-CoV-2 sample are requested to provide the names and contact details of the exposed persons.

The decision issued by the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland on 31 March 2021 (ESAVI/10292/2021) stipulates that on the basis of section 16 of the Communicable Diseases Act that persons arriving in Finland from high-risk countries through border crossing points in the ports of the City of Helsinki must participate in a health check immediately upon entry to prevent the spread of the dangerous Covid-19 infectious disease. For the health check, the person's name, mother tongue, personal identity number or date of birth, citizenship, gender, home address or address where they are staying in Finland, municipality of residence, municipality of temporary residence, telephone number, contacts in high-risk countries, possible symptoms of Covid-19 infectious disease and information on their country of origin, ship, countries, where the person has travelled to, whether the person has suffered from Covid-19 within the last six months, whether the person has a certificate of a negative Covid-19 test result, or whether the person has booked a Covid-19 test via the Finentry application.

## **6. Regular personal data disclosure**

Physicians must notify the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare of suspected or diagnosed cases of generally hazardous or monitored communicable diseases (Communicable Diseases Act, section 23).

Personal data are disclosed to the entitled authorities based on legislation or specific data requests in compliance with the law and the data protection guidelines of the Social Services and Health Care Division. No data will be transferred outside the EU or the EEA from the register.

## **7. Data storage period**

Data collected in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act are destroyed upon completion of the epidemic's investigation or the tracing of transmissions, provided that the preservation of the data is not essential for controlling the communicable disease.

## **8. Personal data sources**

The data of the register are acquired and maintained based on information received from the client / patient or their representative and based on data generated in the care units. The personal and address data of clients/patients from Helsinki are extracted from the population register, and other necessary basic data are saved in the information systems when the care relationship begins.

The physician responsible for communicable diseases in the hospital district provides the physicians responsible for communicable diseases at the health centres with data to be registered to the extent made necessary by the tasks of municipal communicable disease control.