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**Emne:** OHCHR NV - request for input - Study on impact of Covid-19 on young people - response from Norway  
**Vedlegg:** Challenges for young people with disabilities.pdf

**Att: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Please also find attached a response to the study on impact of Covid-19 on young people from the Ministry of Culture and Equality.

### **Health**

The Covid-19 pandemic and the measures implemented to stop the virus have had major effects on children and young people's life. The access to health and care services were reduced at times.

Many services, such as low threshold services, respite care and activity services for young people were closed or had reduced accessibility in the early days of the pandemic. These are essential services for the users of such services, and closed or reduced services resulted in a greater strain on family members and increased the social isolation of many young people. The government has therefore granted subsidies aimed at vulnerable groups to facilitate activities and socialisation. Additional funding has also been allocated to keep services and low-threshold services open for people with mental health problems and substance use problems, whilst maintaining anti-infection measures. There's also been allocated extra funding to family health centres and the school health service to ensure more accessibility, as well as measures aimed at helping victims of domestic violence.

An expert group on vulnerable children and young people was established in March 2020, along with an inter-ministerial working group, to monitor the situation for vulnerable children and young people throughout the pandemic. The government has also allocated additional funding to a range of different measures aimed at children and young people.

Mental health and psychosocial support have been part of the national COVID-19-response plan, with a strong focus on particularly vulnerable groups. The Directorate of Health have published national guidelines aimed at health personnel in both primary care and specialized services, with a strong recommendation to keep services open, especially for patients who doesn't seek out help for themselves.

A number of new regulations are introduced to stimulate more ambulant services and digital help throughout the pandemic.

### *Vaccination*

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health points out that the risk of a severe disease course of COVID-19, which can lead to admission to hospital, is low in young age groups. Vaccination can reduce this risk of severe disease in all age groups.

As of today COVID-19 vaccines are approved to those aged 5 years and older by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The Norwegian Government has decided to offer coronavirus vaccines free of charge to all children aged 5 and older, although there is no strong recommendation for healthy

children. Children in high risk groups for severe disease are recommended to be vaccinated. All people 16 years and older are recommended to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Those who have reached the age of 16 are of legal age and can consent to vaccination themselves. For children who are offered the coronavirus vaccine, but have not yet reached 16 years of age, parents must consent to vaccination. In the case of joint parental responsibility, both must consent. Children and adolescents under 16 should be consulted, based on age and maturity and their opinion should be given weight. Vaccination is voluntary.

Children have the right to receive tailored information. Parents should talk to their children about the decision to vaccinate and help to convey important information about this. Tailored information material is available.

Regards,



Helse- og  
omsorgsdepartementet

**Jonas Aga Uchermann**

Seniorrådgiver

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From: Imma Guerras Delgado [imma.guerrasdelgado@un.org](mailto:imma.guerrasdelgado@un.org)

Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 15:55 To: OHCHR-Permanent Missions in Geneva [OHCHR-DL-permanentmissionsingeneva@un.org](mailto:OHCHR-DL-permanentmissionsingeneva@un.org)

Subject: OHCHR NV - request for input - Study on impact of Covid-19 on young people

To All Permanent Missions – Geneva

Please find attached a NV from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights requesting input for the OHCHR Study on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on human rights of young people, pursuant to HRC resolution 48/12. The NV is attached both in word and pdf formats in English, French, Spanish and Russian. Inputs, which should not exceed 5 pages, are requested by 15 February 2022.

Best regards.

[Imma Gueras-Delgado](#)

[Coordinator, Child and Youth Rights Unit](#)

Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch

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