

Covid-19 and how it has affected health care in Norway

Development of the pandemic, the authorities dealing with it and the effects on the health care and the patients with covid and other health issues.

My personal reflections

Norway in short

- Inhabitants : 5.37 mill.
- Confirmed infected: 116.443 (May 10. 2021)
- Confirmed dead from covid19 : **767** (14,3 pr. 100 000)
- Inpatients per april 26. 2021: 110
- Vaccinated: 1.465.851
- Mortality reduced or similar to the previous years

- Many guest workers in health care , hotels, restaurants and industry. Som daily commuters from Sweden, several frequent travellers from east and central Europe.

The start

- March 12. 2020 – 1. shut down (delay 1-2 weeks)
- Closing shops, schools, kindergartens, restaurants, hotels, some working areas in industry. Work at home if possible. No visitors in hospitals and care homes.
- Digital GP consultations increased dramatically
- Sudden decrease in total number primary care consultations, and sudden rise of number of digital consultations.
- Drop in number of admissions from GPs to specialized health care
- Drop in number of new cancer patients
- Best results ever in part of cancer patients treated within time limits (>70% in all regions) (!)

The health care system, 1. wave

- Extreme lack of disposable protection equipment
- A number of infected patients died, in care homes and in hospitals
- Sick leaves and quarantines among health care workers
- ICUs were filled up with covid 19 patients, most of them on ventilators.
- Close down of elective operations
- Increased waiting lists for patients waiting.

Then the shut down worked.

Waiting patients, guaranteed maximum waiting time passed in 1. wave

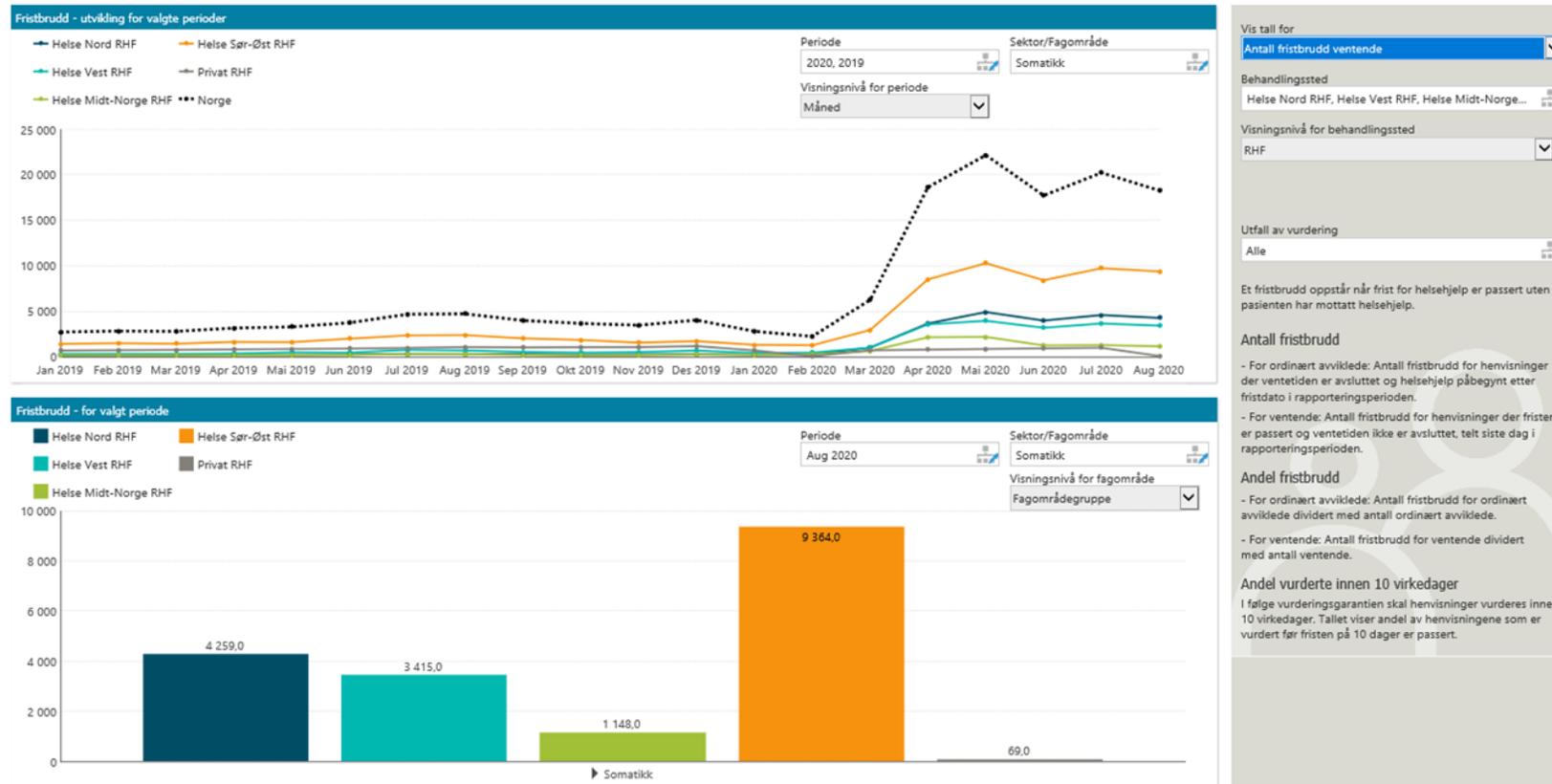


Table: Norwegian. Directorate of Health, 2020

2. and 3. wave

- 2.wave in November
- The health care had almost totally recovered (?)
- More national and local restrictions
- Oslo has had lock down from November to May
- 3. wave february 2021
- Consequenses for the public and the businesses
- Health care relatively normal activity, but April we had a big increase in ICU patients.

How decisions were made in Norway

- Decision authority: The Norwegian Government (constitutional)
- Advisory authorities: The Norwegian Directorate of Health
The Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Very close cooperation and frequent (daily for a long time) public press conferences with information to the public.

- National (governmental) and local (municipal) restrictions.
- Testing, Isolation, S (tracing), K (quarantine), and vaccinating.

April 15., 2021: The corona commission first report

- Evaluating the first 6 months of the pandemic (March-October 2020)
- Main conclusion: The test was passed, much due to the trust in the public.
- But: 63 learning points were listed in the report
- The preparedness was far too poor, despite warnings that pandemic was the most likely serious safety risk.
- Intensive care capacity was on limit already before the pandemic, critical during each of the three waves, but:
- The ability to change, adapt and improvise was good
- The resilience of the system, both the political, the administrative and the health care systems, were impressive .

PMs birthday party

- The PMs 60 year birthday was celebrated on a restaurant and a rented flat in a Norwegian ski resort at easter time.
- The rules and recommendations for parties in restaurants and people from different cohorts in the flat were violated.
- The PM got a 20 000 Nkr (2000 €) fine, *because she was the prime minister*, and had a special responsibility to show the people the importance of following the rules.

LATEST NEWS

- The Indian mutant of the virus is threatening the plan for reopening the society in Norway
- To be continued....?

Thank you for your attention. Be safe!

