

Information for parents and education or training professionals in the Canton of Vaud – Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Information update

This page, which is dedicated to training centres and schools as well as pre-school and after-school collective day care facilities, is updated to reflect the changing situation.

Version of 1 May 18:00.

Why are education and training centres closed?

Faced with a changed situation, the Canton of Vaud has decided, in agreement with the Swiss Federal Council, to take exceptional and unprecedented measures to protect people at risk and over 65 years of age and to support our health-care system. Starting from Monday, 16 March, students attending compulsory and post-compulsory schools, as well as secondary school students and teachers will no longer be required to go to their training centres and schools and will stay at home to fight against the spread of the virus. The same applies to apprentices on course days. It is very important that as many people as possible stay at home. To support the health-care system, a school hosting service will be provided in each compulsory school facility from 7:00 to 18:30 hours.

Will the courses continue?

Yes, but remotely. Normal attendance will be resumed on 11 May.

More details:

- [Decision No. 166 \(in French\): "Provisions implementing distance teaching in compulsory education \(COVID 19\)" of 24 March 2020 \(PDF, 151 Ko\)](#)
- [Decree of 23 March 2020 on the accompanying measures in the field of compulsory education aimed at mitigating the consequences of the measures taken to combat the coronavirus \(COVID 19\) \(in French\)](#)

How does the school hosting service operate?

In classes with a maximum of 9 students and in strict compliance with the rules of hygiene issued by the Federal Office of Public Health (OFSP). These facilities are supplied with liquid soap, disposable hand towels and, if necessary, hydro-alcoholic solution. Coordination with

after-school facilities is being put in place. This hosting service will be provided during the school holidays.

Which parents are eligible for the conditional school hosting service?

The Ordinance of the Swiss Federal Council, which came into force on 17 March 2020 (Ordinance 2 COVID-19, Art.5 para. 3) establishes new measures to curb the spread of the disease as soon as possible, to protect the people most at risk and to do everything possible to avoid the collapse of our health system.

Some professionals will be required to continue to go to their workplaces. Remote working solutions offered by employers or hosting solutions for their children in their professional or personnel contexts must have priority. When this is not possible, **a school hosting service will be available for children whose parents do not benefit from a private childcare solution. This task cannot be entrusted to people who are particularly at risk.** This service is available for parents who, in particular, form part of:

- health-care system personnel;
- prison staff, requisitioned security personnel and on-call personnel required to perform essential tasks for the State;
- on-call personnel required for retail outlets for food and basic necessities;
- personnel providing this school hosting service.

These parents must communicate the need to take care of their children to the Secretariat of the school in which they are enrolled. Each child must bring his/her own picnic lunch.

For more details:

- [Decision No. 167 \(in French\): "Provisions implementing distance teaching in compulsory education \(COVID 19\)" of 24 March 2020 \(PDF, 139 Ko\)](#)
- [School Hosting Service \(PDF, 168 Ko\)](#)

What behaviour is expected of people in a Vaud-based education or training centre?

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS 

Keep your distance.



Recommendation: If it's not possible to keep your distance, wear a mask.



Continue to work from home if possible.



STILL IMPORTANT:

 

Wash your hands thoroughly.

 

Avoid shaking hands.

 

Cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your arm.

 

Stay at home if you experience symptoms.

 

Always call ahead before going to the doctor's or the emergency department.

www.foph-coronavirus.ch



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This basic advice is recalled for all students and all staff members in attendance to provide the conditional school hosting service in the education and training centres and is displayed in all the centres on the official poster of the OFSP, namely:

- hands must be washed regularly and thoroughly with soap and water;
- handshakes must be avoided;
- distances must be kept and close physical contacts avoided;
- adults or teachers are allowed to wear masks when distances cannot be kept;
- people should cough and sneeze into a handkerchief or into the crook of their elbow;

- in the presence of symptoms (fever and/or cough), the person affected, adult or child, should stay at home. In case of aggravation of the symptoms, the family doctor should be contacted.

The person who contracted the disease may return to the conditional school hosting service only after complete recovery (24 hours after the end of the flu-like symptoms, fever and/or cough). In case of a positive test result, refer to the FAQ sheet issued by the Cantonal Physician.

[Dedicated website](#) for advice and downloading of the poster “New coronavirus: Here’s how to protect ourselves”

Why will compulsory education students be required to resume attendance on 11 May?

On 29 April, the Federal Council gave its approval to the resumption of classroom teaching. This is good news from an educational standpoint. However, this resumption will only be possible if health-related precautions are strictly observed. Protection of health is still our top priority.

The OFSP’s protection plan explains that children tend to become sick less often than adults and have fewer symptoms. Also, the disease is milder for them. They play almost no role in the spread of this virus.

For more details:

- [Decision No. 170 "Provisions for the application of health and organisational measures within the framework of the gradual resumption of classroom teaching \(Cantonal Protection Plan - COVID-19\)" \(in French\) \(PDF, 173 Ko\)](#)

For whom will the return to school be useful?

The return to school will allow students to rebuild their social ties, return to their classes, reunite with their classmates and renew their relationships with their teacher and the school system. To a certain extent, it will restore equality of opportunity because, with distance teaching, as during holiday periods, inequalities are accentuated between those who can benefit from the availability of skills, tools and supervision and those who enjoy less opportunities.

With the return to school it will also be possible to identify and work with those students who have suffered most from this interruption of classroom teaching. The programme has also been designed to consolidate the knowledge that will be important for the rest of the school curriculum, and this will help the Department to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information:

- [Letter to parents and students - 30 April 2020 \(in French\) \(PDF, 133 Ko\)](#)

For whom will the return to school be useful?

Gradual resumption will begin with half classes starting from Monday, 11 May, to Wednesday, 20 May (until Ascension Day) for the first two cycles (1-8P). After Ascension Day, for 1P to 8P classes, the resumption will continue with whole classes, starting from Monday, 25 May.

For the 3rd cycle (9-11P), the resumption will be spread over three weeks (Monday, 11 May to Friday, 29 May) with half classes. The situation will be assessed in view of a transition to whole classes starting from 1 June.

What health rules must students and education and training professionals observe starting from 11 May?

- They must:
 - Wash their hands upon arriving at school and after returning to their classroom from recreation in the morning and afternoon. If there are few washbasins, hydro-alcoholic solution can be used under the supervision of an adult;
- They must cough and sneeze into a tissue or into the crook of their elbow;
- Children and adults must keep a distance of 2 metres between them, and adults must do the same. There is no rule for a minimum distance between children who should, however, limit the physical contacts between them by avoiding handshakes, which can be replaced, for example, by “elbow bumps”, and kissing. They should also give preference to contactless games and physical activities.

For more details:

- [Decision No. 170 "Provisions for the application of health and organisational measures within the framework of the gradual resumption of classroom teaching \(Cantonal Protection Plan - COVID-19\)" \(in French\) \(PDF, 173 Ko\)](#)

What measures will be taken to protect education and training professionals starting from 11 May?

- Transparent plastic panels will be installed on the counters of schools and PPLS regional secretariats;

- The layout of workplaces will facilitate the maintenance of a distance of 2 metres between adults in the teachers' rooms. Teachers will take turns in their use of the rooms;
- Masks will be available for specific situations, or on request;
- Wastebins will be emptied once a day and none must be left without a lid. For this purpose, a simple cardboard box or a plastic bag may be used, if nothing else is available;
- Distribution of documents should be done by children rather than by teachers;
- Food should not be shared between adults and children.

Under what conditions will recreation and leaving class at the end of lessons take place starting from 11 May?

1P to 8P: students will alternate their recreation so as to avoid large gatherings.

9S to 11S: the students will leave their classes at the same time and will be assigned to specific areas in the recreation ground. They must not leave the area that is assigned to their group/class in the recreation ground.

At the end of lessons, all students must immediately leave the recreation ground. Parents who come to collect their children must avoid gathering together around the school.

Will classroom and buildings be disinfected?

Starting from 11 May, classrooms will be disinfected at least twice a day. This applies to the rooms themselves, surfaces, tables, door or window handles, stair railings, sanitary fittings and shared appliances in the teachers' room. Objects that cannot be washed or disinfected will be removed (cushions, carpets, some fabric sets, etc.).

Special additional hand hygiene stations will also be provided at the entrance of secretariats, teachers' rooms, libraries and other public places or common spaces. If there are few washbasins in the educational facility, hydro-alcoholic solution can be used by the students under the supervision of an adult.

Who oversees the application of all these measures?

School administrators will be responsible for overseeing the application of all health-related measures, under the authority of the Prefects or the Cantonal Physician, who can also be called upon for support.

Will refectories, school restaurants and supervised homework rooms be open starting from 11 May?

They will be open, but the students of the 9th class must observe specific hygiene rules. For example, they must go to their classroom in groups and not all at the same time. Supervised homework will be resumed and will be subject to the same rules of hygiene and distances as the school itself.

Will school transport be available as usual starting from 11 May?

School transport should be resumed starting from 11 May. Health rules applicable during transport will be specified by the parties directly involved.

What to do starting from 11 May if a person (student or teacher) has symptoms in a classroom?

In case of cough (generally dry), sore throat, shortness of breath, fever, sensation of fever, muscle pain, sudden loss of smell and/or taste, headache, gastro-intestinal symptoms, conjunctivitis or colds, the student:

- must leave the classroom;
- be given a mask;
- wait for his/her parents or go home (depending on age);
- the parents must contact a paediatrician or the Cantonal hotline.

The education or training professional:

- must leave the classroom;
- be given a mask;
- go home;
- the parents must contact a paediatrician or the Cantonal hotline.

How will my school year be assessed?

No marks will be awarded. The Vaud school system is taking a firm stand on health-related measures, but it will be more flexible as far as teaching and school curricula are concerned. The conditions for promotion, orientation, reorientation and certification will be less stringent. For the promotion of students from 4P to 5P, 6P to 7P, 8P to 9S, 9S to 10S and for certification from 10S to 11S:

- The averages of the first semester will be compared with those of 13 March, and the overall situation that is most advantageous for the student will be confirmed as final;

- In all situations involving “borderline cases” (students whose marks are just below the average), the student will be awarded a pass for that year;
- In “fail” situations, a decision may still be taken by the school administrators based on an overall analysis of the situation and taking into account the student’s behaviour since the resumption of activity.

For VP or VG orientation, there will be no borderline cases or discussion. But the conditions will be less stringent in these situations too, in the sense that the average that is most favourable to the student, that of 13 March or of the 1st semester, will be confirmed as final.

For more details:

- [Decision No. 171 \(in French\): “Provisions for students receiving compulsory education governing the exceptional procedures for promotion, orientation, reorientation, certification and admission to transition classes and to the general education and commercial schools of general and vocational high schools \(COVID-19\)” \(PDF, 150 Ko\)](#)

Will the exams for school leavers (11th year) be held?

The Council of State has decided to cancel the final exams for the certificate of completion of secondary studies (11th year) as part of the extension of the measures already taken.

Conditions for the award of the certificate:

- The average that is most favourable to the student (1st semester or 13 March) will be confirmed as final;
- Borderline cases will be certified by the school administrators;
- In “fail” situations, a decision may still be taken by the school administrators based on an overall analysis of the situation and taking into account the student’s behaviour since the resumption of activity.

ECR examinations are cancelled, and the decisions on promotion, orientation and reorientation will be taken on the basis of the results obtained face-to-face only.

For more details:

- [Decision No. 171 \(in French\): “Provisions for students receiving compulsory education governing the exceptional procedures for promotion, orientation, reorientation, certification and admission to transition classes and to the general education and commercial schools of general and vocational high schools \(COVID-19\)” \(PDF, 150 Ko\)](#)
- [Decision No. 166 \(in French\): “Provisions implementing distance teaching in compulsory education \(COVID 19\)” of 24 March 2020 \(PDF, 151 Ko\)](#)

- [Decree of 23 March 2020 on the accompanying measures in the field of compulsory education aimed at mitigating the consequences of the measures taken to combat the coronavirus \(COVID 19\) \(in French\)](#)
- [Letter to parents and students “Distance teaching starting from 27 April 2020 – Cancellation of the examinations for the 11th year” \(PDF, 240 Ko\)](#)

As I am now in my 11th year and I have not yet decided on my occupational project, I am beginning to worry. Who can help me in this very particular situation...?

For students at the end of their school career who have uncertainties about their occupational future, the Cantonal Office for Educational and Vocational Guidance (Office cantonal d'orientation scolaire et professionnelle (OCOSP)) is available to explain the training system, help young people in their occupational choices, assess their situation and provide them with support, if necessary, in the preparation of their application for admission to a transitional solution for the next school year. (2020-21). These support measures for entry into apprenticeship training (CFC/AFP) will help young people to develop their own occupational project (choice of occupation or profession, continuation of advanced education, search for a training opportunity, etc.). The form for admission to a transitional measure 1, together with explanations, is available on the [OCOSP pages](#).

Starting from 11 May, my child will be going to school every other day, and I don't have a childcare solution. What can be done?

The School Hosting Service (SAS) will be maintained precisely for these cases until 22 May for children from 1P to 8P classes whose parents are working and have no other childcare solutions. They must inform the school in advance of the date or dates when the children concerned will be attending the SAS.

For students from 9S to 11S classes, the SAS will not be available. If necessary, hosting in the classroom is the preferred option, unless another solution is offered by the schools.

What should I do if I am a person at risk or I live with one or more persons at risk?

In this case, the education or training facility will inform you using [this form \(DOC, 43 Ko\)](#), with which you can communicate your circumstances and thus enable the student to benefit from distance teaching. Return to school is possible at a later stage and provided that the specific health-related conditions are met.

For education and training professionals: a directive is being drafted with the Personnel Department of the Canton of Vaud and after consultation with the unions.

For more information:

- [Personal declaration: student at risk or living with a person at risk \(Word document\) \(DOC, 43 Ko\)](#)
- [Who are the persons at risk? \(According to Ordinance 2 COVID-19 of the Federal Council\)](#)

I work in an education or training centre. Who will look after my children during my working day?

The children concerned will benefit from the school hosting service in their education facility from 7:00 to 18:30 hours.

I work in the health-care system and my presence is required. I cannot stay at home with my children. What should I do?

In order not to hamper actions being taken in the fight against the virus, the children concerned will benefit from the school hosting service in their education facility from 7:00 to 18:30 hours.

When will post-compulsory education facilities (high schools, vocational schools...) reopen?

They will resume classroom teaching starting from 8 June, in accordance with the requirements for the whole of Switzerland. Until then, distance teaching will continue. The awarding of marks will be suspended, the amount of work will be adapted to the context, and digital teaching tools will be used.

For more details:

- [Decision No. 169 \(in French\): "Provisions for implementing distance teaching in compulsory education \(COVID 19\)" of 24 March 2020 \(PDF, 258 Ko\)](#)

Will exams be held for high school leavers and what conditions must be met for a pass?

The oral and written exams for high school leavers are cancelled. Students will be awarded a pass based on the results of the last year when they received teaching. Students who fail to pass can attend a remedial session in August on the subjects for which an examination is usually required.

Will apprenticeship examinations be held?

The Canton has been very active in the pursuit of a nation-wide solution:

- The examinations for the theoretical part (operational skills and general education) have been cancelled for all vocational options at the federal level;
- For the examinations on the practical part of the training, the federal authorities have defined qualification procedures that are differentiated according to the trades or professions involved, leaving to the cantons the possibility of recognising exceptions for those sectors for which it was not possible to hold an examination for health-related reasons. The Canton of Vaud has recognised some forty exceptions (for example, commerce, health, social, construction and mechanics). If you want to know the situation for your course, you can contact your training centre or call the [hotline](#).

Do apprentices have to go to their workplaces?

Apprentices will stay at home and switch over to distance teaching on the days when they should be attending courses. For the rest of the time, they will go to their workplaces, unless instructed otherwise by their employer. The monitoring mission of the 65 professional commissioners has been strengthened to increase safety for apprentices in their workplaces.

For more details:

- [Decision No. 168 \(in French\): "Mobilisation of professional commissioners to monitor the working conditions of apprentices in their workplaces according to the recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health \(OFSP\) within the framework of the fight against the coronavirus COVID 19"](#) (PDF, 246 Ko)

Will exams be held for high school leavers and what conditions must be met for a pass?

On 29 April, the Federal Council approved the cancellation of all final exams for vocational high schools. The only exceptions are for those subjects for which early and fully completed

final examinations have already been held. Students will therefore earn their vocational high school pass on the basis of their “school” marks, which correspond to the average of the marks obtained for each subject during the semesters followed at school.

Students who do not satisfy the vocational high school leavers’ requirement at the end of this qualification procedure may take the examinations that will be held in August. A student who repeats the qualification procedure must take the exams in all or part of the subjects for which the final mark is insufficient. The new final note for each subject is then determined by the examination mark. The school mark is not taken into account. The remedial session in August will count as the first qualification procedure for the vocational high school leavers’ final examination.

What about the general education school and the specialised vocational high schools?

We are awaiting an inter-cantonal decision in this regard.

What to do if students or education or training professionals have symptoms?

In the presence of fever and/or cough, the student or professional must stay at home. In case of aggravation of the symptoms, the family doctor should be contacted.

Will class trips (camping excursions and school outings) within Switzerland proceed as planned?

All these activities are cancelled until the end of the school year.

Will planned trips abroad be cancelled?

Study trips, camping excursions and other outings abroad are cancelled until the end of the academic year.

The reimbursement procedures for cancelled trips are being studied.

How can I assess my condition or that of those around me?

[CoronaCheck](https://coronavirus.unisante.ch/) is a tool that rapidly assesses your risk or that of those around you and tells you what to do (<https://coronavirus.unisante.ch/>).

Do you have any questions for which you did not find an answer in this FAQ ?

You can call one of the following numbers:

- Parents who encounter educational difficulties with their children: **021 644 20 32** from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday;
- Children or young people facing difficulties in their daily lives: **147**, line open 24 hours a day;
- School hosting service, private schools and extra-curricular activities: **021 316 30 21** from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday;
- Remote education and other questions on compulsory education: **021 316 32 64** from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday;
- Post-compulsory teaching (apprentices, gymnasia): **021 316 62 95** from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday;

To learn more

[OFSP recommendations](#) updated in real time and Coronavirus info line: +41 58 463 00 00 (every day, 24 hours a day)

Dedicated Cantonal Hotline for answers to all questions from the population concerning the coronavirus: 0800 316 800 (every day, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

To monitor the changing situation and for answers to your questions, visit the website <https://www.vd.ch/coronavirus> and the website of the school or training centre concerned.