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 10 March 16:16.

Will education and training centres close?

No. At present, education and training centres in general are not considered to be places at risk. Students and school staff are not considered to be exposed to any particular risk. The following hygiene measures are applicable, to the extent possible.

What measures have been taken at the Vaud-based training centres? Have any precautions been taken?

A coordination and follow-up unit has been deployed within the Department of Education, Youth and Culture (DFJC) to follow up on the status of the situation and anticipate the various possible scenarios, acting in close collaboration with the Cantonal Physician and the Department of Health. At this stage, we are following the current strategy of the Federal Office of public Health (OFSP) and the Cantonal Physician with the aim of slowing the spread of the virus and protecting people with an increased risk of complications.
What are the recommendations to be followed in a Vaud-based education or training centre?

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

In general, all students and staff of the education and training centres in the Canton of Vaud are reminded of the basic advice, which 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;
- 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 person’s family doctor should be contacted.

Class rooms, auditoria, teachers’ rooms, school cafeterias or canteens and dressing rooms are not places at risk falling under the definition of close contact.

The patient may return to the education or training centre only after complete recovery (24 hours after the end of the flu-like symptoms, fever and/or cough).

**Can students or education or training professionals go to their centres if they have flu-like symptoms?**

No. In the presence of symptoms (fever and/or cough), the student or professional in question should stay at home. In case of aggravation of the symptoms, the family doctor should be contacted. The patient may return to the education or training centre only after complete recovery (24 hours after the end of the flu-like symptoms, fever and/or cough).

**Can students or education or training professionals go to their centres if another member of their immediate family (or people close to them) have flu-like symptoms?**

Yes. They should go to their education or training centres, unless they themselves have flu-like symptoms.

**I am a student receiving education or training and I am also a person at risk (diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, cancer, etc.). Should I continue to go to my education or training centre?**

A person at risk should contact his/her family doctor and agree on a specific strategy for attending his/her education or training centre.
I am an education or training professional (teacher, secretary, social worker, educator, etc.) and I am also a person at risk (diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, cancer, etc.). Should I continue to go to my work place?

A person at risk should contact his/her family doctor and agree on a specific strategy for attending his/her work place. The education and training professional should then contact his/her superiors.

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

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

What happens in a class where a teacher or student is absent due to flu-like symptoms?

There are no particular health measures to be taken. Courses will continue according to the instructions of the education or training centre concerned.

Must an education or training professional absent for sickness present a medical certificate to justify his/her absence?

According to the new SPEV provisions, a justification is necessary only from 10 days of absence in order to avoid overloading the health system, and this applies to any kind of sickness or disease.

New SPEV provisions: "As part of the measures related to the management of human resources during the COVID-19 epidemic, the Council of State has decided to temporarily extend to 10 days, corresponding to 14 calendar days, the duration of the period of absence at the end of which the presentation of a medical certificate is required."
Must a student absent for sickness present a medical certificate to justify his/her absence?

Consistent with the new SPEV provisions (above) in order to avoid overloading the health system, a justification is necessary only from 10 days of absence in order to avoid overloading the health system, and this applies to any kind of sickness or disease.

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

All these activities will proceed normally. However, they may be cancelled by decision of the centre management body for organisational or logistic reasons.

Will planned trips abroad be cancelled?

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

Given the present situation, the conditions for an educational trip are no longer met: very limited cultural offerings, public transport systems not necessarily guaranteed, risks of being stranded on the spot, etc.

The reimbursement procedures for cancelled trips are being studied.

Will public meetings (shows, festivals, fairs, open days, conferences and any other event organised by the centres) proceed as planned?

These events are limited, cancelled or postponed by decision of the centre management body in order to protect the staff and maintain the normal functioning of the education and training centres. The centres will focus on their essential teaching missions.

Will internal meetings (teachers’ meetings, centre councils, networks, class delegate meetings, etc.) proceed as planned?

These meetings are limited, cancelled or postponed by decision of the competent authorities in order to protect the staff and maintain the normal functioning of the education and training centres. The centres will focus on their essential teaching missions.
What about special weeks organised in an education or training centre?

The special weeks programme will be adapted to the circumstances. In any case, the centres will focus on their essential teaching missions.

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.)

Address of the “Hotline and information on the coronavirus” page: vd.ch/coronavirus