

# 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 25 March 19:02.

## Who are the parents 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 most vulnerable people 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 is available for children whose parents do not benefit from a private daycare 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.

More details:

- [Decision No. 167: “Provisions implementing the School Hosting Service \(SAS\) \(COVID 19\)”](#)
- [PDF: school hosting service](#)

## 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 this Monday, 16 March, and until the end of April, students attending compulsory and post-compulsory schools, secondary school students and all 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.

## Why weren't schools closed earlier?

We followed the recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health (OFSP) and the Cantonal Physician. Having observed the development of the epidemic in the Canton and following an analysis of our possibilities of intervention, we found a solution that allows us to switch over to remote education without any need to send the children to their grandparents, or to other persons included in the population at risk. This school hosting service also enables us to avoid the collapse of our health-care system. We soon after contacted our colleagues in the other French-speaking cantons to suggest that we all agree on a shared decision in consultation with the Swiss Federal Council.

## Will the courses continue?

Yes, but remotely. Starting from Monday, 16 March, a remote learning system will be in place to allow the continuation of courses at home. Each class teacher will contact each family. The 2019-2020 school year will count for compulsory education purposes, even without school attendance for several weeks. Course content will be prioritised, and teachers will choose selected themes and consolidate acquired skills and knowledge. Remote education will continue at least until the end of April.

More details:

- [Decision No. 166: "Provisions implementing remote education in compulsory schooling" \(COVID 19\)" of 24 March 2020](#)
- [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 \(COVID 19\)](#)

## Who to contact to request a computer for your child?

Submit your request directly to the school attended by your child. The telephone numbers of the school are indicated in your child's school diary.

## Will the exams be held?

Yes. The Department is doing everything possible to ensure that the impact on the students' school curriculum is minimal. More precise information will be given to post-compulsory students scheduled for tests in the coming days and weeks. The Cantonal Reference Tests (ECR) are cancelled for compulsory education and decisions concerning promotion, orientation and reorientation will be taken on the basis of the results achieved in face-to-face schooling only.

More details:

- [Decision No. 166: "Provisions implementing remote education in compulsory schooling" \(COVID 19\)" of 24 March 2020](#)
- [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 \(COVID 19\)](#)

## Do apprentices have to go to their workplaces?

Apprentices will stay at home and switch over to remote education on the days when they should be attending courses. For the rest of the time, they will go to their workplaces, unless indicated otherwise by their employer.

## 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 conditional school hosting service in their compulsory schooling facility from 7:00 to 18:30 hours.

## 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 conditional school hosting service in their compulsory schooling facility from 7:00 to 18:30 hours.

## 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.

## What are the recommendations to be followed in a Vaud-based education or training centre?

**New coronavirus** Last updated: 6.3.2020

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS** 

**NEW** 

**Keep your distance.**  
For example:

- Protect the elderly by keeping a safe distance.
- Keep your distance from others in a queue.
- Keep your distance at meetings.

**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 have got a high temperature and a cough.**

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

[www.foph-coronavirus.ch](http://www.foph-coronavirus.ch)



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

The basic advice is recalled for all students and all staff members present 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;
- 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.

## **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.

## **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/>).

## **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.

## **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, gymnasias): **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.