

# **Information from the Compulsory School Administration about the COVID-19 Coronavirus**

**Until further notice, healthy children should go to school and sick children should stay at home. We are doing everything we can to ensure that our schools continue to operate as normal.**

Healthy children should go to school and sick children should stay at home. In other words, the normal procedure for managing cases of illness still applies. Wait at least 48 hours after your child has recovered from their illness before you let them go back to school. The Compulsory School Administration is following the Public Health Agency of Sweden's (Folkhälsomyndigheten) guidance on this point.

The Compulsory School Administration is carefully following the recommendations provided by the City of Gothenburg (Göteborgs Stad), the Public Health Agency of Sweden (Folkhälsomyndigheten), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (Myndigheten för Samhällsskydd och Beredskap) and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Sveriges Kommuner och Regioner) regarding the coronavirus and other infectious diseases.

To help keep school pupils' parents/guardians well informed, we have compiled the answers to recent FAQs here below.

## **FAQs**

**I'm worried about sending my child to school due to the risk of infection. What should I do?**

If your child is healthy, they should go to school. Otherwise, they will miss out on their education during the time they are absent. All pupils from preschool class to school year 9 are required to attend school. The Compulsory School Administration is following the Public Health Agency of Sweden's (Folkhälsomyndigheten) guidance on this point.

**Can you guarantee that there is no risk that my child will be infected?**

No such guarantee can ever be provided. There is always a possibility that different types of bacterial and viral infections will spread in social environments, such as in schools.

**What happens if my child falls ill during school hours? Can I receive financial compensation for taking time off work?**

If you need to stay home to care for your sick child, you should apply for compensation (*vård av barn* (VAB)) from the Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) as usual.

### **I have a compromised immune system or other illness. What applies in my case?**

If you feel that your child cannot attend school in order to avoid possibly bringing infection home with them, as their guardian, you should contact your doctor for advice.

### **I am currently ill or am in quarantine. Can my child go to school?**

If your child is healthy, they should go to school. If the regional communicable disease control agency Smittskydd Västra Götaland has said that your child should stay home, then they should do so. The Compulsory School Administration is following the Public Health Agency of Sweden's guidance on this point.

### **My child attends a school where pupils and/or teachers are currently in quarantine or are ill. What should I do?**

As long as your child is healthy, they should go to school. It is the regional communicable disease control agency Smittskydd Västra Götaland that decides what further action to take in such a situation, such as contact tracing, quarantine, etc. You will receive information about what applies in your situation.

### **We have visited a country with a large-scale coronavirus outbreak. Do I need to keep my child at home?**

As long as your child is not showing any signs of illness and the public healthcare system has not said that your child must stay at home, they should go to school. The Compulsory School Administration is following the Public Health Agency of Sweden's guidance on this point. If your child seems ill, you should call the medical advice service 1177 Vårdguiden and explain your child's symptoms and where they have spent time.

### **I have questions about the coronavirus. Where should I turn for information?**

If you have questions about the coronavirus, please call the information hotline 113 13.

### **If I need to keep my child home from school because we travelled abroad, can I receive compensation for lost income?**

If your child stays home from school due to illness, such as infection with the coronavirus, you can apply for compensation from the Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) as usual.

### **What should I do if my child has been absent from school for more than 14 days?**

As their guardian, you should continue submitting information about your child's status via the Hjärntorget website. It is important that you continue to inform your child's school about why your child is absent. If, as a guardian, you have the right to receive financial compensation for caring for a

sick child (*vård av barn (VAB)*), you can find more information about what applies in your case on the [Social Insurance Agency's \(Försäkringskassan\) website](#).

## **How will schools be affected by staff absences?**

The situation in schools may change rapidly as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. This is because many school staff are ill and are therefore absent from work. Staff shortages may mean changes to leisure-time centres' (*fritidshem*) opening hours, that classes are combined and that pupils attend fewer lessons.

As far as possible, each school will inform its pupils and their guardians about any such changes.

## **How are schools affected by the ban on events with over 500 attendees?**

This ban only applies to events, not to schools.

## **Will national tests (*nationella prov*) be held during the spring term of 2020?**

No. All national tests for compulsory school students have been cancelled from 30 March up to and including 30 June. Although national tests have been cancelled, your child will still receive their school grades. The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) is responsible for this decision and made the announcement during the Public Health Agency of Sweden's (Folkhälsomyndigheten) press conference held on Monday 23 March at 2 p.m.

[More information about national tests is available on the Swedish National Agency for Education's \(Skolverket\) website](#) (in Swedish).

## **FAQs concerning your child's right to attend leisure-time centres (*fritidshem*)**

All of the following information regarding leisure-time centres (*fritidshem*) applies equally to pupils enrolled in preschool classes, compulsory school and compulsory school for pupils with learning disabilities. Pupils covered by Sweden's Act (1993:387) concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments (LSS), always have the right to attend a leisure-time centre, even if their guardians have been furloughed (*permitterad*) or are unemployed.

### **I've lost my job. What applies in my situation?**

Your child still has the right to attend a leisure-time centre (*fritidshem*) for one month after you become unemployed. You need to report your unemployment without delay by e-mailing [fritidsplacering@grundskola.goteborg.se](mailto:fritidsplacering@grundskola.goteborg.se).

### **I've been furloughed (*permitterad*). What applies in my situation?**

Your child still has the right to attend a leisure-time centre (*fritidshem*) if you have been furloughed. They have the right to attend during the days on which you work. You must inform the leisure-time

centre if the hours you plan for your child to spend there change. You can also choose to cancel your child's enrolment at a leisure-time centre. More information on how to do this is available below.

### **Do I still need to pay the leisure-time centre (*fritidshem*) fee if I am unemployed or have been furloughed (*permitterad*)?**

You are required to pay the fee for the period your child is enrolled at the leisure-time centre. You are always required to pay the full fee regardless of how many hours your child actually spends at the leisure-time centre.

### **Can I cancel my child's enrolment at the leisure-time centre (*fritidshem*) immediately in order to avoid paying the fee?**

You must provide notification that you wish to cancel your child's enrolment by e-mailing [fritidsplacering@grundskola.goteborg.se](mailto:fritidsplacering@grundskola.goteborg.se) no later than the 5th of each month to avoid paying the fee. You can specify the date from which you wish the cancellation to apply when you submit this notification. If you submit your cancellation notification after the 5th of the month, you will need to pay the leisure-time centre fee for a further month. Once you have cancelled your child's enrolment, you will receive a confirmation via mail stating the date from which the cancellation applies.

### **What happens once I start working again?**

Once you start working again, your child is welcome to attend the leisure-time centre (*fritidshem*) as before. As soon as you know you will start working again, you must send a notification via e-mail to [fritidsplacering@grundskola.goteborg.se](mailto:fritidsplacering@grundskola.goteborg.se). Your child has the right to attend a leisure-time centre from the day you begin work, regardless of whether you have received a reply or not.

### **Will my child be able to attend the same leisure-time centre (*fritidshem*) as before?**

Yes. Your child can attend the same leisure-time centre as before.

### **What applies during the Easter holidays?**

Your child will have the right to attend as usual if you need to leave them at a leisure-time centre (*fritidshem*) during the Easter holidays. However, if you cancelled your child's enrolment before 5 April, your child will not have the right to attend a leisure-time centre during the Easter holidays.

## **Help prevent infection**

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, avoid touching your face or eyes and avoid close contact with people who are ill.

Wash your hands often with soap and warm water – before meals, before handling food and after using the toilet. Hand sanitiser is one alternative way to clean your hands when you are not able to wash them.

You can avoid spreading the virus in your surroundings and contaminating your hands by coughing and sneezing into the crook of your arm or into a tissue.

Stay at home when you are sick to avoid infecting others on the bus, at your workplace, or in other places where you come into close contact with people.