

Information to parents of children in preschools, elementary schools and leisure centers, Reykjavik City Department of Education and Youth

We encourage parents to allow children to attend preschools, elementary schools and leisure centers in order to provide stability for the children. Schooling has now started again after the Easter break according to each school's arrangements, while regular schooling will commence on May 4.

Why are preschools, elementary schools and leisure centers open?

Children and young people are not at risk of severe infection from the new coronavirus (COVID-19) and little is known about serious illness due to the virus among them. If children or young people get infected most of them experience mild symptoms. Older students are also in a better position to study through distance teaching than younger children. The schools are socially important and it is very important that children get an opportunity to learn, even though the teaching arrangement might change temporarily. Elementary schools will be in operation as long as they can ensure that no more than 20 pupils are placed in each classroom. Students should not socialise in groups in cafeterias or during recess. Particular attention will be paid to infection control and hygiene in schools. School buildings will be cleaned and disinfected every day.

Preschools continue their operations but must ensure that student groups are small and separated as far as possible. Particular attention will be paid to infection control and hygiene in schools. School buildings will be cleaned and disinfected every day.

How long are the school restrictions in effect?

The Ban on Public Gatherings is effective until May 4 and after that, there will be regular school operations at our preschools and compulsory schools. More information will be given over the days leading up to this date.

Can parents choose to keep their children at home?

Healthy children are encouraged to attend school. If a child shows no signs of illness, the child should attend school. The elementary school is still compulsory as before. However, it is very important that the child does not attend school if it has symptoms similar to COVID-19, such as fever, cough, bone or muscle pain or fatigue. Guidelines for schools regarding key messages and preventive measures have been issued with clear information about safe actions in order to prevent infection, diagnose early and fight COVID-19 in schools: [Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools](#).

Iceland's response: <https://www.covid.is/flokkar/vidbrogd-a-islandi>

Where can I get information?

- All general information can be found on the websites of the preschools, elementary schools and leisure centers.
- Other information: <https://www.covid.is/english>.

A letter to parents

In this unusual situation we are in, it is important to make sure that parents understand information from the school and restrictions on schooling while the ban on public events is ongoing. Students can get online homework assistance while parents can get in touch with the language and cultural mediators of the Language and Literacy Centre (Miðja máls og læsis) who can communicate with parents in English, Filipino, Icelandic or Polish. This service is free for parents.

You can send an e-mail or call on weekdays between 10 AM and 2 PM.

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Website of the mediators:

<https://mml.reykjavik.is/bruarsmidi/>

Information groups on Facebook:

- Polish:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/457285701147086/>
- English:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EnglishMML/>
- Filipino:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FilipinoMML/>