



511/2021

Regulation on the restriction of school activities due to an epidemic.

Article 1

Decision and goal.

With reference to paragraph 2 Article 12 quarantine act no. 19/1997, the Minister of Health has decided, on the recommendation of the Epidemiologist and in consultation with the Minister of Education and Culture, to temporarily limit school activities as described here.

The aim of this regulation is to ensure that there will be as little disruption to school work as a result of the COVID-19 disease, with the utmost prevention as a guide.

Article 2

Scope.

The restriction on school activities takes effect from May 10 and is valid until May 26, 2021.

The number limitation in school activities at each school level depends on the provisions of this regulation.

The government is reassessing the need to restrict school work as far as possible, i.e. whether it can be lifted earlier or whether there is a need to extend its validity period.

Restrictions on school activities include kindergartens, elementary schools, music schools, secondary schools, secondary education and universities, whether they are public or private schools. The regulation also covers related activities, such as school libraries, leisure centers, school camps and community centers, as well as youth and leisure activities.

Sports activities outside of school work are governed by the regulation on restrictions on gatherings due to an epidemic.

Practical driving lessons and flight lessons depend on the regulation on restrictions on gatherings due to an epidemic.

Article 3

Kindergartens.

Kindergartens are permitted, according to a further decision of local authorities, to maintain school activities in school buildings with a 1 meter proximity restriction between staff. If it is not possible to ensure a 1 meter proximity restriction between staff, they must use face masks. Staff are not obliged to use face masks when interacting with preschool children. There must not be more than 50 adults in each space, although employees are allowed to move between groups and spaces. The same rules apply to school service personnel. The number and proximity restrictions do not apply to children of preschool age.

Events related to the work or social life of preschools, such as plays and concerts, are subject to the above restrictions.

Parents and relatives may enter school buildings, but must take care of quarantine and wear face masks if it is not possible to maintain a distance of 1 meter.

Others who enter the nursery, such as for goods transport, must observe the 1-meter proximity restriction, wear face masks and observe quarantine measures.

Arrangements must be made to clean and disinfect buildings after each day and between groups in the same space.

The provisions of this article also apply to organized youth and leisure activities for children of preschool age.

Article 4 *Elementary schools.*

Primary schools are permitted, according to a further decision by local authorities, to hold school activities, including sports activities, in school buildings with a 1 meter proximity restriction between staff. If staff are unable to ensure a 1 meter distance between themselves and students, they must use face masks. There must not be more than 50 employees in each space, however employees are allowed to move between groups and spaces. The same rules apply to school service staff and music school staff.

Students are exempt from the 1 meter proximity restriction and the mask requirement. There must not be more than 100 students in each room. Mixing between groups within a school is allowed.

In common school spaces, such as entrances, lobbies, toilets and corridors, as well as in canteens and the school bus, it is permitted to deviate from the number limit, provided that staff use a face mask.

Events related to the work or social life of elementary schools, such as lectures, recitation competitions, etc., are subject to the above restrictions.

Parents and relatives may enter school buildings, but must take care of quarantine and wear face masks if it is not possible to maintain a distance of 1 meter. Others who enter the primary school, such as for goods transport, must maintain a 1 meter restriction, wear face masks and observe quarantine measures.

Arrangements must be made to clean and disinfect buildings after each day and between groups in the same space.

The provisions of this article also apply to leisure centers, community centers, school camps and organized youth and leisure activities for children of primary school age.

Article 5 *Music schools.*

Music schools are allowed to conduct classes with a 1 meter proximity restriction between staff and students. There must not be more than 50 persons born in 2004 and earlier in each space, however, employees are allowed to move between groups, but when they cannot maintain a 1 meter proximity restriction to each other or to students born in 2004 or earlier, employees must use a face mask. Students born in 2004 or earlier must also use face masks if proximity restrictions are not possible, if possible.

All music lessons for children of kindergarten and primary school age are permitted with the same restrictions that apply to their school work. It is not necessary to keep the same division into groups as in primary school work.

Events related to the work or social life of a music school, such as concerts, in the case of students born in 2005 and later, are home and must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3 and 4, such as with regard to the involvement of parents or other adults. Events related to work or the social life of music schools in the case of older students depend on the provisions on performing arts in the regulation on restrictions on gatherings due to an epidemic.

Parents and relatives may come to the music school, but must take care of personal hygiene and wear face masks if a distance of 1 meter cannot be maintained. People other than employees who come to the music school, such as for goods transport, must wear face masks, observe the 1-meter proximity limit and observe quarantine measures.

Arrangements must be made to clean and disinfect buildings and equipment after each day and between individuals and groups in the same space.

Article 6 *Secondary schools.*

School work at secondary school level, in public schools, youth centers and secondary education is permitted, provided that students and staff can keep a distance of at least 1 meter from each other and the number of students and staff never exceeds 100 in each space. If it is not possible to keep a distance of 1 meter, students and employees must use face masks.

In common school spaces, such as entrances, lobbies, toilets and corridors as well as canteens, it is permitted to deviate from the crowd limit provided that a face mask is used.

In situations where proximity restrictions cannot be enforced, such as in practical teaching, art teaching and teaching students on career paths, students and teachers must wear a face mask.

Mixing of students between groups is allowed during classes and staff are allowed to move between rooms.

Other events that do not count as teaching or learning are homes in school buildings with the above restrictions.

Common contact surfaces in classrooms must be disinfected after each presence of groups of students. At the same time, common equipment and contact surfaces must be disinfected at least once a day and emphasis should be placed on individual disinfection.

Events related to work or social life in secondary schools depend on the provisions on performing arts in the regulation on restrictions on gatherings due to an epidemic.

This provision does not prevent students from staying in a dormitory.

Canteens are allowed to operate according to this article.

It is allowed to keep reading rooms open and hold meaningful tests for up to 100 people in well-ventilated spaces, subject to the 1-meter proximity limit and general quarantine measures.

Article 7 *Universities.*

In all university buildings, school work is permitted, provided that students and staff can maintain a distance of at least 1 meter from each other and the number of students and staff in each teaching or reading room does not exceed 100. Mixing of students between groups is permitted. Staff are allowed to move between spaces. If it is not possible to keep a distance of 1 meter, students and employees must use face masks.

In common school spaces, such as entrances, lobbies, toilets and corridors, it is permitted to deviate from the number limit and the rule of mixing groups, provided that face masks are used. In situations where it is not possible to enforce proximity restrictions, such as in practical teaching, art teaching and clinical studies, school work is permitted under quarantine precautions and on the condition that students and teachers wear a face mask.

Other events that do not count as teaching or learning are homes in school buildings with the above restrictions.

Common contact surfaces in classrooms must be disinfected between groups of students and regular ventilation must be ensured in spaces.

In universities, common equipment and contact surfaces must be disinfected at least once a day and emphasis should be placed on individual disinfection.

Article 8 *Exemptions.*

The minister can grant an exemption from the restriction of school activities if it is not considered that there is a risk that this would go against the goals of official epidemic prevention measures. The minister can request comments from the epidemiologist and the minister in charge of education and culture on a request for an exemption.

Article 9 *Validity.*

This regulation, which is established with authorization in Article 12. quarantine act no. 19/1997, enters into force as prescribed in Article 2. From the same time, regulation no. 405/2021, on restrictions on school work due to an epidemic, with subsequent amendments.

The Ministry of Health, 7 May 2021.

Svandís Svavarsdóttir.

Ásthildur Knútsdóttir.

Disclaimer

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If there is a discrepancy between the text that appears here in the collection and what is published in the edition of Section B of the Official Gazette, the latter shall prevail.

Information

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