

# **HEALTH PROTECTION AND PRIMARY SCHOOL OPERATIONS IN THE PERIOD UNTIL THE END OF THE 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

(an extract – general information for parents)

This document applies to the fundamental operating conditions at primary schools in association with the presence of Year 1 and Year 9 pupils at school.

The movements of pupils in and around primary schools are subject to the following principles:

## **The journey to and from school**

The general rules of behaviour stated in the crisis measures apply to the pupils travelling to and from school, especially:

- the use of a protective mouth and nose covering (hereafter simply referred to as a “face mask”).
- the maintenance of a distance of 2 metres from other people in line with the crisis or exceptional measures (this is not necessary, for example, when the pupil is being accompanied by members of a joint household).

## **Arriving at school and movements in front of the school**

Maintain a distance of 2 metres from other people in line with the crisis or exceptional measures (this is not necessary, for example, when the pupil is being accompanied by members of a joint household).

- All arriving individuals are required to wear a face mask to cover their mouth and nose in front of school.
- The pupils will be picked up in front of school by the assigned teaching staff member who will organise the pupils into groups and take them into the school.

## **Entry into the school building or the school facility**

- Only pupils are permitted to enter the school building, not their accompanying adults.
- All pupils and school employees must wear face masks in the common areas.
- Each pupil must have at least 2 face masks per day and a bag for any used face masks.
- The school is authorised to define the areas where the pupils are free to move.
- The pupils are obliged to comply with the set hygiene rules; the repeated failure to adhere to the rules will constitute grounds for not permitting the pupil to enter the school or for ejecting the pupil from the group or preparation, provided the pupil’s legal guardian has been demonstratively informed of this.

## **In the school buildings**

- The transfers of groups of pupils, the movements of pupils in the corridors and any visits to the toilets or the common areas will be organised in such a way so as to minimise the contact between each group and any individuals, including the school employees.
- It is advisable to maintain a distance of 2 metres during any transfers, if possible (but at least 1.5 metres).
- It is recommended that break times should be spent outside, where possible. All pupils must put on their face masks before leaving the classroom and keep them on for the entire period that they are outside the classroom.
- The school will undertake cleaning and disinfection and any other hygiene measures in line with the set rules.

## **In the classroom**

- Each pupil must use hand disinfectant immediately after changing their footwear or after entering the classroom. Previous hand washing is also recommended (this must be undertaken for 20 to 30 seconds using water and liquid soap).
- The composition of the group of pupils will be designated in advance and it will be unchanging.
- The maximum number of pupils in a group is 15 and it is necessary to adhere to the principle of one pupil per desk.
- The pupils and teaching staff are not required to wear face masks when in the classroom, provided a distance of 2 metres is maintained (or at least 1.5 metres). Face masks must also be worn in class, if there is any closer contact (for example in work groups).
- Each pupil must place the face mask in his/her bag upon removing it.
- The pupils must disinfect or wash their hands after each teaching block in the classroom.
- The school will keep records of the pupils' attendance at school.

#### **If any possible COVID-19 symptoms are suspected**

- Anybody with the symptoms of a respiratory tract infection which could correspond to the symptoms of COVID-19 (a raised temperature, a cough, a sudden loss of taste and smell, other symptoms of acute respiratory tract infections) is prohibited from entering the school.
- If a pupil displays any of the possible COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be placed in a separate room and the pupil's legal guardians will be contacted and requested to pick the pupil up immediately.

#### **The Ministry of Health has designated the following risk factors:**

1. Anybody over 65 years of age with underlying chronic illnesses.
2. Chronic pulmonary illnesses (including moderate and serious bronchial asthma) with long-term systemic pharmacological treatment.
3. Cardiac and/or arterial illnesses with long-term systemic pharmacological treatment, for example hypertension.
4. Disorders of the immune system, for example
  - a) during immunosuppressive treatments (steroids, HIV and so on),
  - b) during anti-tumour treatment,
  - c) individuals who have undergone the transplantation of solid organs and/or bone marrow,
5. Severe obesity (a BMI over 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
6. Pharmacologically treated diabetes mellitus.
7. Chronic kidney illness requiring the temporary or permanent support/replacement of kidney function (dialysis).
8. Illnesses of the liver (primary and secondary).

#### **What to do, if a pupil is in an at-risk group**

- The legal guardians are advised to consider the risk factors, if a pupil falls into an at-risk group, and to keep this in mind when deciding whether the pupil should participate in the educational activities.
- The pupil's legal guardian's must submit the following declarations, which can be signed before the pupil returns to school, upon the pupil's first entry into school:
  1. the written familiarisation with the at-risk groups defined by the Ministry of Health and
  2. the written affirmation of the non-existence of any symptoms of infectious viral diseases (for example, a raised temperature, a cough, a sudden loss of taste and smell and so on).
- If the legal guardian fails to sign these documents, the pupil will not be able to participate in the activities at school.
- The legal guardian is obliged to inform the school of his/her intention to send the pupil to attend school, specifically by 18.5.2020 in the case of Year 1 pupils and by 7.5.20 in the case of Year 9 pupils.

### **Groups of Year 1 pupils**

- Primary schools will provide educational activities for pupils in Years 1 to 5 of primary school according to the exceptional measures issued by the Ministry of Health.
- The maximum permissible number of pupils in a group is 15. The following condition must always be met: one pupil to a desk with a space between desks.
- The group composition will remain unchanged throughout the entire period from the pupils' return to school until 30.6.2020. The school principal will decide on the placement of the pupils in groups. A pupil may not be included in a school group later than 25.5.2020.
- Before-school clubs will not be held.
- The school will keep records of the attendance of the pupils in the groups. If a pupil is absent for more than 3 days, the school will request information from the pupil's legal guardian as to the cause of the absence and as to whether the pupil is to return to the group. These absences will not be included in the absences noted on the pupil's school report.
- Physical education lessons cannot be conducted in their usual form, including swimming.
- The school principal will designate the times for the beginning and end of the educational activities.

### **The details pertaining to pupils preparing for entrance exams to secondary school in the period from 11.5.2020**

- Year 9 pupils will be able to attend school for the purpose of preparing for the upcoming entrance exams in line with Government Resolution no. 491 dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- The educational activities will be realised in groups of pupils which may only consist of Year 9 pupils. It is best to create the groups out of pupils from a single class, if possible.
- The maximum number of pupils in a group is 15. The following condition must always be met: one pupil to a desk with a space between desks.
- The group composition will remain unchanged throughout the entire period. The school principal will decide on the placement of the pupils in groups. A pupil may not be included in a school group later than 11.5.2020.
- The rotation of several teachers within a single group of pupils is permissible, provided this is necessary in relation to the preparation for the entrance examinations.
- The lesson content will mainly involve material from the entrance examination subjects and the goal is to help the pupils prepare for the upcoming entrance examinations. The school principal will designate the amount of time and the organisation of the lessons.

Source: the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Prague, 30. 4. 2020, Health protection and primary school operations in the period until the end of the 2019/2020 school year

[https://1.im.cz/onas/msmt/ochrana\\_zdravi\\_zs.pdf](https://1.im.cz/onas/msmt/ochrana_zdravi_zs.pdf)