

Mandatory Parts of the "Manual": Operation of Schools and School Facilities in the School Year 2020/2021 due to Covid-19

This is information on related binding rules based on applicable legal regulations, which the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports considers to be crucial with regard to the operation of schools from 1 September 2020.

Face masks – There is **no obligation to wear** face masks in a school building or school facility. However, the obligation to wear face masks could apply to the organisation of mass events. The introduction of the obligation to wear face masks is governed by the alert stage in the field of public health protection, the so-called traffic light. In the event that the district is included in the alert stage II (orange colour), the relevant regional hygienic station will introduce the obligation to wear face masks in the common areas of schools and school facilities.

In the case of specific emergency situations associated with covid-19, the school is always obliged to follow the instructions of the Regional Hygiene Station and to observe all currently valid emergency measures announced for the respective area by the relevant Regional Hygiene Station or the Ministry of Health.

School steps in the case of suspected covid-19 infection:

Schools have a duty to prevent the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, including covid-19. They fulfil this obligation under the Public Health Protection Act by being able to ensure “the separation of a child or adolescent who shows signs of acute illness from other children and adolescents and to ensure the supervision of an adult natural person for them (Section 7(3) of the Public Health Protection Act).

The school is not obliged to actively detect at individual children/pupils/student signs of infectious disease (such as raised temperature, fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, muscle and joint pain, diarrhoea, loss of taste and smell, etc. .), but it is appropriate to pay increased attention to these symptoms and the following procedure is chosen for their detection:

- the symptoms are already visible when the child/pupil/student arrives at school — the child/pupil/student is not admitted to the school building; in the case of a child or a minor pupil, provided that his/her legal representative is present,
- the symptoms are already visible when the child/pupil arrives at school and the legal representative of the child or minor pupil is not present – he/she shall notify the legal representative immediately and inform him/her about the need to pick up / hand over / leave school immediately; if this is not possible, it is proceeded according to the following point,
- the symptoms will occur, they are evident during the presence of the child/pupil/student at school; the face mask is immediately provided and the child/pupil/student is placed in a separate room prepared in advance or otherwise isolated from others present at the school, and at the same time the child's/minor's/pupil's legal representative is informed with a view to immediately picking up the child/pupil from school; the adult pupil/student leaves the school building as soon as possible.

In all these cases, the school informs the legal representative, or the adult pupil or student to contact the general practitioner by telephone, who will decide on the next step.

Chronic disease showing signs of infectious disease – A child/pupil/student with persistent symptoms of an infectious disease that is a manifestation of a chronic disease, including an allergic disease (rhinitis, cough), is allowed to enter school only if he/she proves that he/she does not suffer

from an infectious disease . The general practitioner for children and adolescents confirms that it is not an infectious disease. After submitting the medical certificate, the child is allowed to enter the school building. Confirmation is submitted only once.

Distance education – From 1 September, the education of children/pupils/students returns to full-time form, distance education will be only in the cases stipulated by the prepared amendment to the Education Act, these are the cases where due to crisis or extraordinary measures or due to the quarantine order, the **personal presence of the majority of** children/pupils/students of at least one group/class/department/course is made impossible). Apart from the above cases, the school headmaster or legal representative may not decide on the transition to distance education.

The obligation to provide education in this way in respective situations applies to primary schools, secondary schools, conservatories, higher vocational schools, primary art schools and language schools with the right to a state language examination. Kindergartens are obliged to provide distance education to children for whom pre-school education is compulsory, provided that the majority of children are absent from a class organised exclusively for these children, or that the majority of these children are missing from the whole kindergarten or from the whole separate workplace. The full-time education of the affected children/pupils/students is switched to distance education (with regard to their conditions for distance education). Other children/pupils/students who are not affected by the ban continue in full-time education. It is preferred that they remain part of the same group at the same time.

Pupils and students have an obligation of distance education. For kindergarten children, the obligation applies to children for whom pre-school education is compulsory.

The school is obliged to adapt distance education, including the assessment, to the conditions of children/pupils/students.

In other cases, the school has no obligation to provide distance education. The school then proceeds in a similar way as in a normal situation where children/pupils/students are not present at school. However, it is recommended, if the organisational possibilities of the school allow, to maintain at least partially distance education of the affected children/pupils/students, on the basis of their voluntariness and taking into account their individual conditions.

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