Safe Schooling in the time of COVID-19
Towards a consensus on safe schooling in the European Region during the COVID-19 pandemic

CASE STUDY CROATIA

High-level meeting jointly organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Ministry of Health Italy
31 August 2020

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Distancing measures

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

- ENHANCED PERSONAL HYGIENE AND HAND WASHING
- NON-INTERFERENCE OF EDUCATIONAL GROUPS
- THE LARGEST POSSIBLE PHYSICAL DISTANCE DURING MEALS AND SLEEP*
CASE STUDY CROATIA

**Distancing measures**

**PRIMARY EDUCATION (GRADES 1-4)**

- Enhanced personal hygiene and hand disinfection
- Class 'bubbles'
- Maximum possible physical distance (social distancing)
- Children do not wear protective masks
Distancing measures

LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION (GRADES 5-8)

- enhanced personal hygiene and hand disinfection
- class ‘bubbles’
- maximum possible physical distance (min 1.5 m in classroom)
- students do not wear protective masks

If it is not possible to insure the minimum distance of 1.5 m in the classroom:

- students and teachers wear protective masks
- class is divided into groups of students (rotating teaching)

In case of a favourable epidemiological situation, competent civil protection headquarters may decide that students do not wear protective masks nor are classes divided into groups of students.
Distancing measures

**UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION**

- enhanced personal hygiene and hand disinfection
- class ‘bubbles’
- maximum possible physical distance (approx. 2 m in classroom)
- students do not wear protective masks

If it is not possible to insure the minimum distance of approx. 2 m in the classroom:

- students and teachers wear protective masks
- class is divided into groups of students (rotating teaching)

In case of a favourable epidemiological situation, competent civil protection headquarters may decide that students do not wear protective masks nor are classes divided into groups of students

CASE STUDY CROATIA
Criteria and process for sending sick children home and for readmitting them to school

**Signs of illness**
fever, cough, breathing difficulties, loss of smell and taste, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting

If the student develops signs of illness during the stay in school, he/she is isolated in a separate room until parent/guardian arrives:

- **teacher supervising the student** should use a visor, mask and disposable apron
- **student with signs of illness** should be provided with a mask
- **the room where the student was isolated** should be disinfected, protective equipment taken care of properly and the hands washed with soap and water or disinfected

In case of suspicion of fever and the appearance of the above symptoms, it is necessary to measure the student’s body temperature at school

All students who will be imposed a measure of active health supervision in self-isolation due to a contact with a COVID-19 positive person, will be sent home and distance learning using ICT will be organised
Criteria and process for testing children and teachers

All students and staff who develop signs of illness within 14 days of contact with a COVID-19 positive person will be tested - the indication for testing is determined by a family doctor or epidemiologist.

Employees of educational institutions after returning from vacation, longer absences or from abroad, areas with an increased incidence of COVID-19 and employees with other epidemiological risks in the anamnesis should be asked by the head of the institution:

1. Did they have symptoms compatible with COVID-19 during the previous 14 days of absence
2. Have they been in close contact with COVID-19 positive person during the previous 14 days of absence
3. Have they stayed in an area with an extended local transmission of COVID-19 during the previous 14 days of absence
4. Have they stayed indoors in a larger group of people, without preventive measures during the previous 14 days of absence

If the answer to any of these questions is positive, it is indicated to test the employee for COVID-19.
Criteria when schools or parts of schools are closed again

All schools will start on September 7, 2020

There is no protocol for the general closure of schools; the situation will be considered by the epidemiological service and the competent civil protection headquarters for each individual school or area on the basis of the following criteria:

- A measure of self-isolation is imposed on all or most teachers
- The school has a higher incidence of COVID-19 than its surrounding area
- Uncontrolled spread of infection in school
- School is a source of infection