

Information to parents and guardians regarding the Corona situation

Education department preparations in the event that the government takes the decision to close all preschools and schools.

There are many parents who have asked questions about yesterday's decision from the government of ongoing preparations for the closing of schools and preschools in the whole country. Due to this Nora council has the responsibility of ensuring childcare for the children of parents who have vital key jobs such as; medical personnel, police, food transport, food shops workers etc. Firstly, it is important to point out that at the moment it is far from certain that a complete closure will happen. The health ministry says in its information to schools and preschools: "based on our experience of other influenza illnesses what we know is that closing schools has no or very little effect. It is also a fact that school fills an important community and social function."

However, if the closure of preschools and schools should happen, the education department here in Nora has already formulated a plan of action for online schooling and how care for especially the younger children, preschool to grade 3, will be organised. The plan also states how childcare needs for parents with vital key jobs can be identified simply and quickly.

Nora's schools are well prepared for online distance learning thanks to their relatively highly developed school digitalisation. The staff at Nora schools are preparing and planning at the moment for such an eventuality. At the same time, it is important to point out that even a well-functioning digital distance learning solution cannot physically replace teaching at a school. Some subjects, such as woodwork, home economics or music cannot work via the internet.

Distance learning for adult students attending Hjernet

Hjernet adult teaching centre has decided with affect from Wednesday 18 march to start distance learning via the internet after a decision by the head of Nora council. The decision is for the foreseeable future and affects both students for the adult programmes and upper secondary school. There are certain exceptions where physical attendance is necessary and student work placements will continue as normal.

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The importance of good cooperation between the home and school/preschool/after school care functions where there is concern about the child's wellbeing.

Staff at Nora's schools, preschools and after school care functions have a responsibility that the working environment for both child and staff is safe and healthy. That responsibility means continually checking that children at the preschools and schools are healthy to minimize the spreading of virus infections to other children and to the staff. If a child falls ill during the day it is the staff's duty to contact the child's parents and according to the health ministry recommendations, decide if the child can go home on his or her own or needs to wait in a separate room until the parents are able to collect the child.

It is essential that there is good communication between the parents and the staff in schools, preschools and after school care functions. Sometimes sickness symptoms, for example coughs can be a sign of a serious condition and therefore it is especially important that parents and staff communicate openly about it. In the case that there is disagreement that the child's symptoms are a sign of a serious illness or can be explained by something else the parents should immediately contact the principal of the school.

Healthy pupils should go to school

In Sweden it is law for compulsory school attendance and healthy, symptom free pupils, should therefor go to school. This applies even if they have sick siblings, parents or another household member. The exception at the moment in the case of the coronavirus covid-19 is if a child belongs to one of the risk groups or there is a family member at home who belongs to one of the risk groups. In such cases the parents should always contact the principal of the school directly to seek permission for absence due to exceptional circumstances.

Children in preschool or pupils in after school care are not compelled to attend.

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Henric Lundberg, Head of Schools

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