

The Coronavirus – Changes to the Operations of the Municipality of Vihti

24.3.2020

The Finnish government stated on 16.3.2020 that the country is experiencing exceptional circumstances because of the coronavirus epidemic. The government outlined additional measures to deal with the situation in Finland. The purpose of these measures is to protect the health of the public and to secure the operations of society and economic life. **The issued measures will be in effect from 18.3.2020 to 13.4.2020.**

In accordance with the government's instructions, the following measures will be taken in the municipality of Vihti:

- **School facilities will be closed and contact teaching will cease. Instead, teaching and instruction is to be primarily organized remotely.** In the exceptional circumstances resulting from the coronavirus, contact teaching was initially limited to those students whose parents and guardians work in fields that are critical for the functioning of society. Now the government altered its policy on Friday 20.3. and currently all primary school pupils at grades 1-3 may also receive instruction in the form of contact teaching *if necessary*. However, the Minister of Education has appealed to parents so that children at grades 1-3 would not be sent to school for contact teaching unless absolutely necessary. More detailed instructions are to be sent via Wilma.
- **Daycare and preschool operations** are reserved for the children of employees in fields that are critical for the functioning of society. It is recommended that children are kept at home if at all possible.
- **Youth facilities** are closed.
- **Libraries, library buses and the museum** are closed.
- **The swimming pool and gym** are closed. The municipality's guided exercise groups, both on land and in water, are cancelled.
- **The municipal government office** serves the public online, via phone or by appointment.

The government also outlined the following measures that we are adhering to:

- The size of public gathering is limited to 10 persons. Spending time in public places unnecessarily should be avoided.
- Visits to the housing service units of the elderly and other high-risk groups are banned.
- Outsider visits to hospitals, nursing homes and healthcare units are banned. Visits by symptom-free loved ones of critically ill patients, patients on end-of-life care or child patients may be allowed, and a spouse or support person may be allowed to be present at the delivery ward, but these are always reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Persons over 70 years of age are obligated to keep away from contact with other people as much as possible (quarantine-like conditions). This does not apply to members of parliament, the government or municipal elected officials.
- Public sector employers order those public sector employees for whom it is possible to work remotely.
- Finns and persons who are permanently residing in Finland who are returning from abroad are directed into quarantine-like conditions for a period of two weeks.
- For the moment, Finnish citizens and persons residing in Finland must avoid travel abroad. Finnish citizens and persons permanently residing in Finland are allowed to return to Finland from abroad. Foreign travellers are allowed to leave Finland.

The measures mentioned above may be extended or they may be subject to change. This information will be updated as necessary.