

Primary and lower secondary school guidelines for COVID-19

The school in Hällefors municipality has previously provided information to parents/guardians regarding COVID-19 on the basis of the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Sweden's regional infection control and the Swedish National Agency for Education as applicable on 02 and 04 November 2020. This information applies, with the exception of the amendment that has now made by the Public Health Agency of Sweden regarding pupils with a family member who is infected with COVID-19.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden has now amended its recommendations regarding pupils staying off school and at home when they have a parent/guardian infected with COVID-19. The school would therefore like to inform parents/guardians of the following:

It is recommended that younger children and pupils who are living with someone who has COVID-19 should also stay at home, exactly as is recommended for older pupils. The Public Health Agency of Sweden is now amending the recommendations so that staff at schools and nursery schools will be able to focus on teaching.

Primary and lower secondary schools, as well as other compulsory schooling and nursery schools, are important to development and learning in children and adolescents. Both schools and nursery schools have a vital function in society. The basic position during the pandemic is for activities to be open and for teaching to take place in school.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed great strain on activities in schools, which have worked hard to adapt activities in order to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden is now making a change to the recommendation regarding precautions for household contacts in its updated guidance on infection tracing: children at nursery, primary and lower secondary school who are free of symptoms are now also to stay at home if anyone in their family has confirmed COVID-19. This recommendation already applied previously to older pupils. such as those at upper secondary school.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden does not consider that this measure will have any decisive effect on the spread of infection at school or in the community at large.

‘The aim of the change is to create calm and peace of mind at work, and to allow the focus to be placed on teaching in the school.’

The Public Health Agency of Sweden wishes to emphasise that its assessment remains that children have low levels of infectiousness, generally develop mild symptoms and are not a driving force in spreading infection. In addition, staff at nursery, primary and lower secondary schools are at no higher risk of being diagnosed with COVID-19 than those in other professions.

[Children who are free of symptoms should stay at home if anyone in their family has COVID-19 — Public Health Authority of Sweden \(folkhalsomyndigheten.se\)](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se)

The school will comply at all times with the directives and recommendations of the authorities and will continually update the measures and information. The above applies until further notice.

*The School Board
Hällefors municipality primary and lower secondary schools.*