

## **Information to educational establishments about the outbreak of COVID-19 infection**

For children (up to and including 17 years old) who have returned from [areas affected](#) by COVID-19 infection:

it is recommended to not attend the educational establishment for 14 consecutive days since leaving the area affected by COVID-19 infection. If necessary, one of the parent to the child under the age of 14 years shall be provided with a certificate of incapacity to work for that period. If during this period the child has not shown symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection, the child may return to an educational establishment upon presenting a family doctor's certificate and no additional precautions need be taken with regard to the child.

If a child who has returned from the area affected by COVID-19 infection develops symptoms of acute infectious disease within 14 days of leaving the area, but the laboratory test for COVID-19 infection is negative, the child is treated as in the case of any acute respiratory infection, and following the lapse of 14 days of leaving the area affected by COVID-19 infection, if symptoms of the disease are no longer present, may return to the educational establishment upon presenting a family doctor's certificate and no additional precautions need be taken with regard to the child.

If the child has been in close contact with a patient infected by COVID-19 infection, which in turn is defined by the epidemiology expert of the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia, the child will be kept in home quarantine for 14 consecutive days since leaving the area affected by the COVID-19 infection.

If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 infection, he will be treated according to the health condition and shall return to the educational establishment according to the instructions of the treating physician after recovery.

We are calling for the requirements of Cabinet Regulation No. 890 "Hygiene Requirements for the Providers of the Child Supervision Service and Educational Institutions Implementing a Pre-school Education Programme" of 17 September 2013 ("*Higiēnas prasības bērnu uzraudzības pakalpojuma sniedzējiem un izglītības iestādēm, kas īsteno pirmsskolas izglītības programmu*") to be met with regard to the non-admission of children with signs of infectious diseases.

An employee of an educational establishment who has returned from the area affected by COVID-19 infection is recommended to monitor closely his/her health condition and in case of the slightest signs of a respiratory infection, such as:

cough,

sore throat,

heightened body temperature,

SHALL NOT go to work or SHALL REFRAIN FROM HIS/HER DUTIES IMMEDIATELY and call 113. The emergency medical service will arrange a laboratory test to check for COVID-19 infection\*\*.

In case of a positive test outcome involving a specific educational establishment, the CDCP epidemiologists will determine specific anti-epidemic measures according to the situation.

The coronavirus causing COVID-19 infection spreads:

by direct contact with an infected person,

by small drops produced by the infected person while speaking, sneezing or coughing,

and by indirect contact with surfaces and objects contaminated by respiratory secretions.

Therefore, we are calling for recommendations to be taken into account regarding children's personal hygiene and prevention measures:

wash hands frequently and thoroughly with water and soap, especially after visiting public places, before meals, before touching the face, after visiting the toilet;

where it is not possible to wash hands, it is recommended to disinfect hands with ethanol-containing hand disinfectants;

keep in mind that touchscreen devices, such as telephone surfaces, may also be contaminated with viruses and bacteria, and therefore it is recommended to clean them regularly with ethanol-containing disinfectants;

avoid touching your face (eyes, nose and mouth) with unwashed hands;

avoid close contact with people with symptoms of acute respiratory tract infection; it is recommended to keep at least one metre distance;

when coughing and sneezing, cover the mouth and nose by means of a disposable tissue which shall be disposed of after use and then wash hands;

undertake wet cleaning or washing of toys daily by means of detergents; hence, soft toys which cannot be washed shall not be used in pre-school establishments;

to regularly clean and disinfect surfaces and objects frequently touched by humans, using household disinfectants;

to regularly clean and vent premises.

We call for a thorough assessment of the need for groups of children to take part in events abroad if they are to travel to one of the areas affected by COVID-19 infection.