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Information for parents

Below you can find a summary of key information about the coronavirus epidemic in relation to children.

The spread of the epidemic is constantly changing, related government and local government measures are being introduced frequently, therefore it is worth following closely how the situation evolves. Menedék Association is monitoring the events, the legislative changes and official information, and we keep our clients informed of the developments.

Doctor, illness

People of any age may contract the coronavirus, but so far only few cases have been reported among children. The symptoms of the coronavirus, such as cough or fever, can be very similar to the symptoms of the flu or cold.

If your child gets ill, then you are advised to do the following:

Do not go to the paediatrician's office without previously setting an appointment! **Call your paediatrician!** You can find a phone number on the website of the doctor's office. If the child falls ill outside office hours, then call the emergency department <http://gyermeksos.hu/departments/haziorvos/>.

If you have an appointment, you should only take your sick child to the doctor's office and only one parent should go, and definitely not a grand-parent. Do not ask your elderly family member to look after your sick child.

Mandatory **vaccinations** and screening tests should be administered despite the coronavirus outbreak. Call your paediatrician to discuss!

Family benefits during the coronavirus epidemic

Until the end of the emergency situation, entitlement to health insurance and family support benefits provided for the care and upbringing of children - as defined in a government decree - will be extended. Entitlement to childcare allowance (GYED), supplementary childcare allowance (GYES) and child-raising allowance (GYET) is extended until the end of the emergency.

Nursery, kindergarten, school

In the emergency situation due to the coronavirus epidemic, schools, kindergartens and nurseries were closed, but the school year and teaching did not stop, it continues in digital form.

Parents who are unable to provide day care for their pre-school, school-age children should contact the schools; the Klebelsberg Centre's district centres / vocational training centres are responsible for ensuring day care. In the case of institutions for younger children, kindergartens and nurseries on duty



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offer day care, provided by the district / municipality. Workplaces can also organize supervision for the children of their employees, it is worth inquiring about it as well.

Due to the epidemic, the rules for nursery, kindergarten and school enrolments have changed.

Nursery enrolment

Enrolment into municipal nurseries takes place electronically: **you need to fill in an application form and send it by e-mail**. The application period varies from district to district in the period of 30 April – 21 May, but you should inquire about this at the district / municipality.

To apply, you need to send the following documents (scanned or photographed, as an attachment): residence card, residence permit, social security (TAJ) card, a document verifying long-term illness if any, or a certificate from a specialist in case the child requires a special diet.

Kindergarten enrolment

If the child reaches the age of 3 by 31 August this year, he/she must be placed in a kindergarten for at least 4 hours starting from 1 September.

Parents should **contact by phone or e-mail the sector kindergartens**, assigned to them on the basis of their address. You may find information about the sector kindergartens and their contact details here: <https://kir.hu/korzet>.

Sector kindergartens are obliged to admit children who applied there, by 21 April 2020 children were admitted *ex officio*, i.e. without a separate application form. The required documents (ID card, address card, TAJ card) must be presented on the child's first day of kindergarten, but there are kindergartens that require a photo or scan in advance.

In case you wish to enrol your child in a kindergarten other than the sector kindergarten, you were supposed to notify the chosen institution, preferably electronically, by 17 April 2020. The kindergarten makes a decision on admission by April 30, 2020, and will notify the parent in writing.

Kindergartens without sectors held their enrolment process between April 2 and 20.

If parents wish to **postpone the start of the child's kindergarten attendance**, they need to request this in writing and submit it to the territorially competent government office by 25 May 2020. The request should describe the reasons why the deferral is requested. If the child has attended a nursery thus far and the parents would prefer the child to spend another year in the nursery, this needs to be agreed with the nursery, as the nursery will report this to the Education Office.

If they live abroad and therefore the child is unable to start kindergarten in Hungary, it is necessary to fill in an application form on the online interface of the Education Office (Oktatási Hivatal): https://www.oktatas.hu/koznevelas/kozerdekuadatok/!Kozerdeku_adatok/oh.php?id=kulfoldi_bejelentes_urlap. The form must then be printed, signed and sent to the following address:



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Oktatási Hivatal

Köznevelési Nyilvántartási Főosztály

Budapest, Pf. 19.

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Primary school enrolment

The Education Office notified the school maintainers by 1 March 2020, making available for them data on the children who have reach compulsory schooling age in the 2020/2021 school year. Sector schools can be found in this database: <https://kir.hu/korzet>

If parents wish to enrol their child in the **sector school**, there is **no need to fill out a separate application form**, the sector school will admit the child *ex officio*. However, it is important to contact the school by phone or email. The child's data can be checked in the so-called KRÉTA system (<https://eugyintezes.e-kreta.hu/kezdolap>) until 21 May, or documents must be presented in person at the beginning of the school year. Information about the KRÉTA system can be found on the school's website.

Required documents: ID card or passport, address card, residence permit, social security (TAJ) card, verification that the child is ready for school, and a so-called NEK datasheet for applying for a student card.

A primary school without a sector (usually those which are operated by a foundation or the church, or private schools) had enrolment for applicants between 6 April and 24 April, 2020. The primary school prepares the schedule of enrolments on a rolling basis based on the applications and informs the parents about the date of enrolment without delay. Institutions which have a KRÉTA system in place do so through KRTÉA. Primary schools without a sector made their decisions about admissions by April 27, 2020 at the latest, and shall notify the parent raising the child and the head of the district school in writing.

If there is a place left in a sector school and the parents of **a child who does not belong to the given sector** wish to enrol their child there, they can apply through the school's KRÉTA system between **28 April and 15 May**. The primary school will decide on the admission of children outside their sector by **21 May 2020** and will notify the child's parents and the head of the sector primary school in writing.

Application to secondary education

The high school admission process has already been completed. By April 30, students will be **notified of the admission decision** by each high school indicated on the application form.

High school leaving examination (érettségi)



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Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the process of high school leaving examination has changed. With a few exceptions (e.g. in gymnastics), oral exams will be eliminated, only the **written exams** will be held. The high school leaving exams will take place from **May 4 to May 21, 2020**.

At home with the children

Restrictions related to the epidemic have brought many changes to our daily lives. The family spends a lot more time together, doing a lot of activities at home. They try to follow the usual daily schedule. Learning is important, but so is relaxation and play!

Exercise and fresh air are also important. In their free time, children can go out for walking, cycling, running, but only near their home and with those whom they live with in the same household.

Encourage your child to keep in touch with friends, relatives by phone and online. Make sure that they feel that they are not alone in this situation.

Spend a bit of time during the day to discuss the situation: have there been any changes in how the children feel? Surely children also have questions, fears, and there is a lot of fake news on the subject. It is important to clarify these with the children. Listen to each other's questions and requests. Make sure that the children feel that they are taken care of, reassure them that they are safe. Tell the children that there is a team (doctors, nurses, police) who constantly work to keep us all safe.

If you need help

The current situation presents many new challenges and difficulties for children, parents and teachers alike. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Menedék Association by sending an e-mail to menedek@menedek.hu.