



ETAT DE FRIBOURG  
STAAT FREIBURG

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## **Re-opening of primary and lower-secondary schools**

Who among us could have imagined a time when schools would be forced to close, shops would be shuttered, and gatherings of any kind would be banned? This is precisely the state of affairs we have had to contend with since mid-March, when the Federal Council declared the public health situation in Switzerland 'extraordinary'. In response, the federal and cantonal governments introduced a raft of measures to protect the population and ensure that everyone, especially those most at risk, would be able to access the medical care they needed during these unprecedented times.

Since then, the public health crisis has eased sufficiently that the Federal Council announced that primary and lower-secondary schools will re-open on 11 May 2020.

We look forward to welcoming your child/children back to school and we would like to reassure you that when classroom teaching resumes, the health protection requirements issued by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) will be strictly adhered to at all times. Furthermore, the cantonal emergency response task force (OCC/KFO) is closely involved in all preparations for this phased return.

### **Primary schools (1H-8H)**

From Monday 11 May, cycle 1 and 2 classes will be divided in two, with each half attending school on alternate days. This arrangement will remain in place for two weeks. The aim of these smaller class sizes is to make it easier for teachers and pupils to find their bearings again and to provide them a safe learning and working environment that complies with all mandatory health protection requirements. Full classes will resume on Monday 25 May. The school principal/teachers will inform you in writing of the return-to-school arrangements for your child/children.

### **Lower secondary schools (9H-11H)**

All lower-secondary pupils will return to school on Tuesday 2 June. This means that remote learning will continue until Wednesday 27 May, at the earliest. Please note that school principals may decide to start the phased return before 2 June, i.e. from Thursday 28 or Friday 29 May. To begin with, a large proportion of classroom time will be spent on discussing how the pupils found the remote learning experience and checking that they fully understand the hygiene rules and correctly follow them while at school. The school principal will inform you in writing of the return-to-school arrangements for your child/children.

### **Precautionary measures**

Phasing in the resumption of primary and secondary schools will allow the DICS/EKSD, the OCC/KFO, the Cantonal Medical Service and the other relevant authorities to fine-tune the

precautionary measures that they have devised for the four main school-related settings, as well as introduce the services essential for the safe and smooth running of these facilities. These include:

- > precautionary measures for primary schools;
- > precautionary measures for special needs schools;
- > precautionary measures for school transport providers;
- > precautionary measures for school canteens.

### **Cantonal hotline**

If your child's/children's teacher(s) or school principal is unable to answer any question you might have, please do not hesitate to contact the canton's hotline *Vie quotidienne/Alltags-Hotline* (026 552 6000).

### **News feed**

Since 14 March, we have posted all school-related developments on our website. We will continue to update this news feed. You will find it at: [www.fr.ch/dics](http://www.fr.ch/dics)

Together, our teachers, school principals and education services have been planning how best to return to normal while factoring in the continued application of the hygiene rules in force across schools since early March.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks for your invaluable support, understanding and cooperation over the last few weeks. You have played an important part in helping your child/children navigate the world of remote learning.

Once again, thank you and every best wish,

Jean-Pierre Siggen  
Minister of Education, canton of Fribourg