

Bulletin to custodians 24/03/2020

## Tuusula municipality's preparedness for the coronavirus situation

In this bulletin, we have compiled current information related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) from different services in Tuusula.

### Health care services

The Keski-Uusimaa Joint Municipal Authority (Keusote) is responsible for the organisation and production of social and health services in its member municipalities, including Tuusula:

- Keusote publishes current coronavirus information and guidance on its website: [www.keski-uudenmaansote.fi/koronavirus](http://www.keski-uudenmaansote.fi/koronavirus)
- **Keusote has opened a coronavirus treatment telephone service 019 226 0099 for residents in the area.** The telephone service is open every day from 8 am to 8 pm.
- **Keusote has opened a guidance and support telephone service 019 226 0098.** The telephone service is open daily from 8 am to 8 pm. It provides conversational aid for concerns caused by the coronavirus situation.

A **national telephone helpline** has also been opened due to COVID-19, providing general information about the coronavirus. The number for the helpline is 0295 535 535. The helpline is open on weekdays from 8 am to 9 pm and on Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm. The helpline does not provide health advice or guidance on acute symptoms requiring emergency care.

#### Keusote instructs:

- The new coronavirus is primarily transmitted by droplet infection when the affected person coughs or sneezes. The viruses do not survive in the air. The incubation period, that is, the time from exposure to the onset of the first symptoms, is estimated to be about 2 to 12 days, with the average being about 5 days.
- **Hand washing is important:** read THL's guide on washing your hands [here](#) or watch the instructional video on the right-hand side of the page.
- **Cough correctly – do not infect others:** read THL's guide on coughing and sneezing [here](#) or watch the instructional video on the right-hand side of the page.
- **Print out guides for hand hygiene and coughing correctly:** you can print out guides for hand hygiene and coughing correctly from the [THL website](#).
- **Read the [guidelines for at-home coronavirus care](#) provided by THL.**

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## Municipal services

The policies set by Tuusula municipality are in line with the policies set by the Finnish Government. The municipality's policies are valid until further notice or for the period mentioned for each policy, and will be specified if the situation so requires.

### Schools and day care centres

- Early childhood education units and pre-primary education are kept in operation.
  - Dining is organised at day care centres as normal in early childhood education.
- Schools are closed and teaching is organised as at-home instruction from 18 March to 13 April, taking into account the exceptions put forward by the Finnish Government:
  - As an exception, contact teaching will continue to be arranged for pupils who require it according to a decision on special-needs support; however, parents and guardians who are able to arrange childcare at home are still requested to do so.
  - As of 23 March, all pupils in comprehensive school grades 1–3 can also receive instruction as contact teaching if needed. In the exceptional circumstances resulting from the coronavirus, contact teaching was initially limited to those pupils whose custodians work in sectors critical to society. However, even following the update to the policy, it is still not obligatory to go to school. Instead, pupils in grades 1–3 are also **strongly recommended to participate in teaching via distance education, where possible**.
    - Tuusula municipality has announced to custodians of pupils in grades 1–3 on 23 March:  
Minister of Education Li Anderson has appealed to parents for children in grades 1–3 not to attend contact teaching unless absolutely necessary. The Minister of Education has also publicly stated that education in Finland can be suspended altogether if the restrictive measures do not work and the number of children in contact teaching does not decrease. Tuusula's education department asks parents to carefully consider the need for contact teaching in this exceptional situation. We hope that only children whose parents have special grounds for doing so will attend contact teaching.
- In comprehensive schools, school lunch is provided to those attending contact teaching every weekday at the location where the teaching takes place.
  - The education sector will send a survey on financial or other challenges to lunch arrangements weekly to the custodians of pupils studying at home via distance education. Based on the survey, there is a possibility for a week's lunch package for the pupil.
- Tuusula recommends that families stay home for two weeks after travelling abroad.

### Public events

- All public events organised by the municipality have been cancelled until the end of May 2020.
- The municipality has closed its public spaces until the end of May.
- Schools and day care centres have cancelled events and visits for all outsiders until the end of May.
- By the Finnish Government's decision on 16 March 2020, public gatherings are limited to no more than ten persons and it is recommended to avoid spending unnecessary time in public places.

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## Recreational activities

- The indoor swimming pool, youth facilities, museums, libraries, indoor sports facilities and the municipal ice rink are closed until further notice.
- The Tuusula adult education centre is closed until further notice.
- The School of Arts has switched to distance education until further notice.
- The Metsäpirtti camp centre is closed until further notice.
- All sport and hobby groups organised by Tuusula municipality's sports services have been cancelled until further notice.

## Other services

- The centralised customer service TuusInfo is serving customers with slightly reduced opening hours for the time being.
- Guardianship services, the One-Stop Guidance Center, immigrant and employment services are receiving and meeting customers, but prefer providing services via telephone and other digital tools.
- Building control services and the service point of the environment centre provide personal service by separate agreement. Work and services are mainly carried out via telephone and other digital tools.
- The [Tietoa eristyksessä oleville](#) page (in Finnish) contains **information and tips for coping for those in isolation in these exceptional circumstances.**