

Information to parents and guardians of students at Volda vgs

As everyone probably is aware of, Volda vgs and other schools in Møre og Romsdal county are now closed for teaching for some time, including Friday 27 March. We have reason to believe that this situation may be prolonged.

As for today, we have received no information about any of our students or staff being infected by the Corona virus.

There has been some dialogue between the school and students/parents who have been tested, but these tests have all been negative (no infection). If any of our students receive confirmation of infection in the time to come, the school management want to be informed. The school will then, in cooperation with the health authorities, discuss if and how to inform other students and their parents/guardians about the incident in order to prevent an outbreak.

It is of utmost importance to prevent further transmission of the virus, which is stressed by Norwegian leaders through restrictions and encouragement.

Some young people do not seem to take these restrictions seriously. Parents/guardians must contribute in preventing your children from gathering at shopping malls, cafés, private parties etc., and encourage them to be social on other arenas instead.

Volda vgs have made precautions for several weeks, and started planning home based education on Wednesday.

The students were told to bring their educational equipment home after school. The message about closing the school on Friday was effectuated in an orderly manner. PE activities were stopped immediately. All the students had a meeting with their contact teacher where they were given thorough information about restrictions made by the authorities, as well as advice based on instructions from the local health authorities. Thus, our students should be well informed about possible transmission and how to prevent infection.

Through completing the school day (except PE), we had the opportunity to inform all our students in "klassens time", where all students met their contact teacher. In addition, we prevented a situation where many students would be gathered waiting for public transport.

During the days before the school was closed, contact areas such as door handles, taps etc have been cleaned more often and more thoroughly, according to guidelines about routines in such situations.

One of our students was told to undergo quarantine and had spent some time in the school building before he was given this message. This lead to immediate action: the classroom was emptied, and the students were told to wash their hands thoroughly. The classroom was emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

The need for information

We will most certainly experience massive pressure from students in the days to come, in connection with restructuring the schoolwork to homebased teaching. To alleviate this pressure, we will publish relevant information on the school website, thus making it possible to find answers to possible questions. If you still have questions, you will find information in this letter on how to contact the school.

Educational equipment at home

Not all students have brought with them everything they need to manage to do their schoolwork at home. Students in this situation must fetch, or get others to fetch, what they need. Contact the school in advance.

The school office («Ekspedisjonen») in the main building will be open on weekdays 9.00-15.00. The main entrance is open. Read the instruction poster as soon as you enter the building.

Monday 16 March, first day of home based education

The day will be spent on establishing contact between contact teachers and students (digitally). Everyone must be online on the learning platform "Itslearning" at 10.00, when we will arrange a class meeting ("Klassens time").

The main purpose is to make the students confident in this new situation, give all necessary information, answer questions and make sure they have all necessary equipment available, especially what they need for online teaching, mainly *google disc* and *Itslearning*.

We would like you to help the students with these arrangements, like reminding them to be online at 10.00 on Monday. It is important to us that we reach everyone this first lesson, if not, we must call or contact them in some other way.

There will not be ordinary teaching of subjects this first day, just a meeting with the contact teacher. The students should start looking at their plans in various subjects to see what they are expected to do during the week. They must also download software they need.

Today, Saturday 14 March, more thorough information about home based education will be published on *Itslearning* at 17.00.

Plan for home based education

The ordinary time schedule will be rearranged into longer periods, so that there will be three or less various subjects each day. Days will be more flexible as for when the students do their schoolwork. Some meeting points will be arranged where the students and the teachers meet online. More information will be given about this on Monday 16 March.

Students who have had individual arrangements and alternative Norwegian classes will get these arrangements prolonged when they study at home. They will receive information about this later, and their teachers will contact them.

Tests and other ways of evaluating schoolwork will be restructured and revised, according to expected progression and manageable amount of work. Some tests may easily be carried out at home, and the students must be prepared to hand in assignments. The students' right to assessment is imposed by §3.1 in *Forskrift til opplæringslova*, and the school's duty is to make arrangements and carry this out. The main purpose is to maintain fair assessment in order to give the students final marks this semester.

If a student does not take part in an arranged test or hand in an assignment or in other ways does not follow instructions about evaluated work, this will be given a "ordensmerknad", and it may also result in too little information for the student to achieve a final mark. Illness is, of course, an exception. The teacher should in such cases be contacted, in advance if possible.

The social situation

The times we live in are extraordinary, and to many, both young and old, the social situation may be difficult. We know that many experience the daily contact with teachers and fellow students as positive. As school we want to keep in contact with our students during this period, even when this becomes difficult. Our students must know that they can contact us about social matters as well as the subjects, as they are used to doing on ordinary school days. The contact teachers and advisors will function as they normally do.

We also ask parents/guardians to be aware of inclusion/exclusion of young people in the current situation.

Cooperation between school and home

When the students' education is home based, the cooperation between the school and the families should be as well functioning as possible. We inform as well as we can, but we are still dependent on feedback to give the students as good education as possible. We are aware that this means extended individual adjustments, and we are prepared to make an extra effort.

Together we can do this!

Contact the school

Most of the staff in the school management and the offices will be working at home, but there will also be employees in the school building.