

Secondary school pupils' education in Lahti continues in an alternating contact-and-distance learning mode from 12 to 30 April 2021

Until the end of April, there is always one grade of secondary school pupils in the contact learning mode for a period of one week at a time. Contact learning starts on Monday, 12 April, with 9th grade pupils. Contact learning continues also for pupils requiring special support, those completing prolonged compulsory and preparatory education, flexible basic education, and all primary school pupils.

In line with recommendations given by the Regional Corona Cooperation Group, which convened on Tuesday, 6 April, as of Monday, 12 April, 7th to 9th grade pupils in basic education, 10th grade pupils in supplementary education, and general upper secondary school pupils in Lahti, shift to a hybrid model, which combines distance and contact learning. The model will be in use until the end of April.

In practice, the hybrid model adopted in the city schools means that there is always one grade of secondary school pupils in the contact learning mode for a period of one week at a time. During that week, other secondary school pupils continue their studies in the distance learning mode.

- From 12 to 16 April contact learning applies to 9th grade pupils and 10th grade pupils in supplementary education; from 19 to 23 April contact learning applies to 7th grade pupils, and from 26 to 30 April contact learning applies to 8th grade pupils.
- Contact and distance learning weeks follow each pupil's normal timetable.

Contact learning applies to pupils requiring special support, those completing prolonged compulsory and preparatory education, flexible basic education, and all primary school pupils.

The entire school staff takes care of the pupils' well-being

During the week of contact learning, schools pay special attention to the overall well-being of their pupils and the progress they make in their studies.

Education care experts cooperate closely with the schools' teaching staff.

Education care services are still available to pupils and students remotely or, if necessary, personally by appointment.

9th grade pupils of secondary schools start a period of contact learning intended to support and ensure the best possible completion of the final stage of their school education.

TET episodes of introduction to Working Life, scheduled to take place in the spring, have been cancelled. Cultural programme will not be implemented for secondary school pupils, and will be implemented for primary school pupils within their own groups. School extra-curricular activities can be organised in individual schools for pupils from the grade currently remaining in the contact learning mode.

Meal distribution for secondary school pupils in the distance learning mode

Secondary schools pupils in the distance learning mode can still apply for lunch food bags in the same way as before, i.e. bags with lunch food for the whole week can be collected every Monday. Bags containing special diet food for two weekdays (Monday-Tuesday) are distributed on Mondays, and for the three remaining weekdays (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) are distributed on Wednesdays.

Detailed distribution-related instructions, times and locations, are school-specific. Pupils remaining in the contact learning mode eat lunch meals inside school premises.

School transport

Guardians of pupils entitled to school transport allowance may receive transport compensation until 23 April 2021, provided that they have the possibility to drive their own child to school and back home. This way, the basic education services aim at promoting flexibility in the school transport system. In the case of

other pupils, school transport arrangements are made according to normal practices, with individual schools ensuring to provide relevant information to pupils and their guardians. End-of-school-year compensations will be reassessed during the month of April.

Use of school premises, hygiene observation and mask-wearing recommendation

Activities and teaching arrangements in individual schools take into account the ongoing contagious disease situation and the relevant instructions provided by the health authorities. During a school day, staff and pupils limit their movement within school premises to a necessary minimum, while keeping the safe distance. The alternating weekly episodes of secondary school pupils' contact learning allow for a more spacious use of school facilities.

Mask-wearing recommendation applies to 6th grade pupils in primary schools, all secondary schools pupils as well as members of teaching and supporting staff, working with secondary and primary school pupils.

Alternations in the distance and contact learning modes are currently being planned; more detailed information can be obtained from the school principal.

The Corona pandemic situation and its impacts on the educational system arrangements will be assessed by the Regional Corona Cooperation Group next time at the end of April. We hope to resume normal, contact learning in May.

Link to the city webpage containing instructions with regard to the basic education: [kaupungin lahti.fi - verkkosivuille perusopetuksen ohjeisiin](https://www.kaupunginlahti.fi/verkkosivuille/perusopetuksen_ohjeisiin).