

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Tue 4/14/2020 4:27:40 PM  
 Subject: RE: Vragen aan Denemarken, Noorwegen en Oostenrijk  
 Received: Tue 4/14/2020 4:27:41 PM

Veel dank!

Van: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@minvws.nl>  
 Verzonden: dinsdag 14 april 2020 17:46  
 Aan: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@minvws.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@minvws.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@minvws.nl>  
 Onderwerp: RE: Vragen aan Denemarken, Noorwegen en Oostenrijk

#### Antwoorden van de Noorse collega's:

(A lot is going on so these are not exhaustive answers, but rather an attempt to summarize in general terms.)

- Can you inform us – in general - about your plans on opening the schools?

These are the changes that have been introduced for opening day care centres and schools in Norway:

- Starting 20 April: Day care centres can re-open provided that they can follow infection control guidelines. They can use the period up to 27 April to prepare themselves for re-opening if necessary. Guidelines will be drawn up and training will be provided so that owners and employees of day care centres receive clear, reliable information on what they need to do to limit the spread of infection.
- 27 April: Schools will open for primary years 1–4, and out-of-school care programmes will open. Upper secondary schools will open for second- and third-year pupils who are following vocational education programmes, provided that this can be done in a way that complies with infection control guidelines. Guidelines will be drawn up and training will be provided so that local authorities and other school owners and employees receive clear, reliable information on what they need to do. In order to minimise the risk of serious illness, children who are at special risk and children who live with family members who are in risk groups will not be required to return to school. They will continue to receive remote schooling.

For more information we refer to the press release of 8 April 2020: Norway to lift COVID-19 restrictions gradually and cautiously

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/norway-to-lift-covid-19-restrictions-gradually-and-cautiously/id2697060/>

- Have you done a study or research on whether it is safe for this group of children? (And if so can we find some information about this study?)

An expert group was tasked with considering measures for day care centres and schools. It was headed by [REDACTED] the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training (Utdanningsdirektoratet), [REDACTED]. The expert group included representatives from the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Folkehelseinstituttet), with the Norwegian Directorate of Health as an observer. They worked under a very tight deadline. They had a week from being formed to delivering their report (3 April 2020).

Their report is only available in Norwegian. Please consult this website for the full report:

<https://www.udir.no/contentassets/2375556970d048d09ab773e0892800ff/tiltak-pa-skole--og-barnehageomradet-under-koronautbruddet-varen-2020.pdf>

For a summary (also only in Norwegian) see the following PDF of a PowerPoint presentation here:

<https://www.udir.no/contentassets/2375556970d048d09ab773e0892800ff/presentation-rapport-ekspertgruppe-3.-april-2020.pdf>

- Did you take / What specific measures did you take to organise the opening of schools safely? (Think of: specific pick up and drop off policy, do all classes start at the same time, what to do with children / families who do not dare, do you use

protective equipment for the class (or even more specific are mouth masks required).

The specifics are being worked out, see the part about the guidelines in the answer to question 1 above.

The leisure time activities are of course covered by the general measures to prevent the spread of the disease, which again makes ordinary activity impossible. The civil society are working hard to provide children and youth with meaningful activities that can be provided under the measures against covid-19. From our part, we are considering adjustments in the public funding to make sure that the civil society can keep up the activity level (but in a somewhat different form). When it comes to sports, it's all been cancelled. They can train in groups of five, if they keep distance, and follow the other safety measures.

<https://www.fhi.no/en/op/novel-coronavirus-facts-advice/facts-and-general-advice/advice-and-information-for-children-and-adolescents/>

#### Antwoorden van de Denen:

1. Can you inform us – in general - about your plans on opening the schools? Currently the plan is to open Early Childhood Education (ECEC) and first level of primary schools (grade 0-5) as well as after-school care for this age group. This is to happen from 15 April or as soon as the facilities/schools are able to live up to the guidelines issued by the national health authorities.
2. Have you done a study or research on whether it is safe for this group of children? (And if so can we find some information about this study?) The national health authorities has assessed the situation and finds that it is justifiable to open the above-mentioned as the overall development of the domestic epidemic appears to be a course of a long-term with a less violent impact. At the same time, knowledge from abroad, including Iceland, shows that there are not as many infected children, and children who get COVID-19 often have very mild progressions, and they probably do not transmit as much.
3. Did you take / What specific measures did you take to organise the opening of schools safely? (Think of: specific pick up and drop off policy, do all classes start at the same time, what to do with children / families who do not dare, do you use protective equipment for the class (or even more specific are mouth masks required). The national health authorities have issued several sets of guidelines for staff, parents and children in relation to the re-opening of ECEC and schools by 15 April. Among the main guidelines are: As much activity and teaching as possible should take place outside - if children are sat at tables there should be a 2 metres distance. Frequent washing of hands and cleaning of toys as well as digital equipment. Children should be split into smaller groups during the day and should play with the same group of children on a regular basis. If possible physical contact should be avoided. There should be no sharing of food. Parents should not enter the building/facilities but drop off and collect outside. Public transportation should be avoided.

Attending school at the lower primary level (grade 0-5) is mandatory. If parents decide not to send their children to school they are obligated to foresee the teaching at home and the school should be notified. Some children might be adviced to stay at home due to their individual health situation and the school is under these circumstances obligated to provide distance learning.

4. What can children do again? May they pick up their leisure activities (as before): sports clubs, hobby clubs, playing together, children's parties (and such)?  
Same as above.

Van: 5.1.2e ) < 5.1.2e @minvws.nl>

Verzonden: dinsdag 14 april 2020 11:53

Aan: 5.1.2e ) < 5.1.2e @minvws.nl>; 5.1.2e ) < 5.1.2e @minvws.nl>

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Onderwerp: RE: Vragen aan Denemarken, Noorwegen en Oostenrijk

Ha 5.1.2e

Fijn dat je dit wilt doen.

Zou je bij Denemarken en Noorwegen (landen die al hebben aangekondigd de scholen te open) en eventueel Oostenrijk (zij denken eraan dit eind mei te doen) het volgende kunnen vragen:

- 1) **Veilig:** Hebben jullie onderzocht of het veilig is voor deze groep kinderen?
- 2) **Aanvullend beleid:** Welke specifieke maatregelen treffen ze om het open van scholen veilig te organiseren? Denk hierbij aan: specifiek haal & breng beleid, starten alle klassen tegelijk, wat doen ze met kinderen/gezinnen die niet durven, werken ze met beschermingsmiddelen voor de klas (mondkapje).
- 3) **Wat mogen kinderen weer?** Mogen ze weer hun vrijetijdbesteding oppakken zoals voorheen: sportclubs, hobbyclubs, bij elkaar spelen, kinderfeestjes en dergelijke

Denemarken start morgen met het openen van scholen en Noorwegen volgende week.

Kan je hiermee uit de voeten?

Groeten,

5.1.2e

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**Van:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@minvws.nl>

**Verzonden:** dinsdag 14 april 2020 11:43

**Aan:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@minvws.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@minvws.nl>

**CC:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@minvws.nl>

**Onderwerp:** Vragen aan Oostenrijk, Denemarken

Hoi allebei,

Ik heb al even met 5.1.2e gesproken en ze wil graag een belrondje doen. Hebben jullie iets specifieker voor haar de vragen die jullie beantwoord zouden willen zien?

Groeten,

5.1.2e