

Measures taken by the Metropole of Lyon to combat the crisis related to the COVID-19

MEASURES TAKEN IN FRANCE

HEALTH DECISIONS

- Containment measures have been in place since March 17th. Leaving one's home is permitted only with a derogatory travel certificate. Schools are closed
- Tests are reserved for care staff and the most serious cases.

ECONOMIC DECISIONS

Total measures: €345 billion, unlimited state-guaranteed loans. The Minister for the Economy announced budgetary measures amounting to €345 billion

- €300 billion of state guarantees for bank loans to companies
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- €45 billion in direct aid for SMEs, in the form of measures such as delays in payment of social or tax instalments, deferred payment of rents or invoices for small businesses in difficulty, direct aid of €1 500 for businesses in the most affected sectors.

In addition, the government announced:

- Measures of "cash support", "direct or indirect assistance" and "facilitating the use of partial activity"
- Possible derogations regarding working time for certain undertakings in "particularly necessary" sectors
- Possibility of "deferring or spreading out the payment of the rents" or certain invoices (water, electricity...) for very small businesses "whose activity is affected by the spread of the epidemic"

- Temporary suspension of the waiting period before social security allowance is paid in the event of sick leave for the duration of the state of health emergency
- Adaptation of the rules for the filing and processing of administrative declarations.

MEASURES TAKEN BY LYON METROPOLE

Creation of a Crisis Unit

President David Kimelfeld and Olivier Nys, the Managing Director of Services, set up a crisis unit to assess the daily situation and adjust the day-to-day arrangements to best meet the emergencies and needs of the Métropoles' inhabitants. This unit works in close collaboration with the services of the Prefecture, the Regional Health Agency and all the member municipalities of Lyon Métropole.

In view of the many decisions to be voted on, the President wishes to set up a metropolitan assembly as soon as possible to take the appropriate and rapid decisions to deal with the current circumstances.

The offices of Lyon Métropole were closed on March 16th, with the introduction of telecommuting for approximately 1,200 agents with flexible working hours for those who have to look after their children. An online meeting tool has been widely deployed.

Information in the form of emails is regularly distributed to all staff (8,700 people) by the Directorate General and a letter from President Kimelfeld has been sent to staff.

The "Metropolitan Reserve" has been created, based on a call for volunteers from agents. This reserve will make it possible to ensure essential missions such as the continuity of public service (telephone calls to vulnerable people, child protection, etc.) or the performance of missions of general interest (support for the food bank, etc.).

A daily communication from the President and the Managing Director of Lyon Métropole is sent to the municipalities via press releases.

Sanitation

Teams from the Métropole normally collect the grey and green bins. Priority is given to waste collection. Cleaning staff have spontaneously offered to redeploy to collection. There are fewer rounds to clean streets and public spaces. Waste collection centers are closed

Municipalities are asked to provide feedback on their needs with regard to the management of bulky items.

Transportation:

From Monday, March 30th, the frequency of metros, trams and buses has been reduced: 50% of metros and trams and about one hundred bus lines run from 5am to 11pm. Ridership has fallen by 90% since the start of the coronavirus crisis.

Economy

- €100 million in emergency aid for very small enterprises and SMEs until the end of June in addition to aid provided by the State.
- Lyon Métropole has set up an e-mail address to follow up information on applications for aid to businesses.
- Suspension of rents for companies based in Lyon Métropoles' properties: free rents for one quarter, until June if necessary (250 companies/traders/craftsmen concerned). This measure also concerns companies housed in the assets of the city's satellites (SERL, Sempat, social landlords, etc.). Consideration is currently being given to a support fund for companies in the private sector.

- Tourism, Hotels, Events sector: 1) Reimbursement in April of contributions by 620 members of the Tourist Office thanks to a €651,000 contribution from Lyon Métropole with an exceptional subsidy. 2) Postponement of the collection of tourist tax in hotels to relieve their cash flow until further notice. 3) Deferral of fees and rents of the Convention Centre and Eurexpo operator.
- Aid to businesses: Exceptional aid from the Métropole based on that of the State: €1 500 aid from the State + Métropole top-up of €1 000 under the same conditions as the State. Begun in April, aid for all businesses, including trade and craftsmen. All businesses eligible for state aid will be eligible for aid from Lyon Métropole
- Integration: foreseeable increase in the number of RSA applicants, as companies will not be able to meet their commitments (integration clauses).

Measures / lines of thought concerning the municipalities

- Avenues for reflection: recovery plan, use of the solidarity grant from the municipalities (to be increased)
- Threshold of 1.19% framework for the operating budget increase: abolished by the State in 2020.
- Functioning of Lyon Métropole member municipalities: the health crisis will also have an impact on the budgets of local authorities: this is an opportunity to reflect on innovative approaches to the pooling of resources, in particular.

Sanitary equipment

- Donation of 100,000 masks to the regional health agency (from Canton, our partner city in China. Several donations from Chinese associations in Lyon oriented towards the City of Lyon and the Epicenter
- purchase of 4,000 liters of hydro-alcoholic gel to be packaged by volunteer agents from Lyon Métropole
- The Metropole is mobilizing large companies present on its territory to obtain material aid, including hygiene products, breast milk, etc.
- Coordination with the AURA region for a massive order of 600,000 masks and hydroalcoholic gel
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- As part of the public order, from the start of the new school year, integration clauses will be included in our public contracts to get the people most affected by the health crisis to work.

Social sector

- There are 57 Lyon Métropole Agencies throughout the territory where families and fragile people can meet with doctors, social workers, educators etc. During the Covid 19 crisis, 11 of these agencies provide services over the phone
- Activation of the “heatwave” plan to follow-up with isolated people
- During this period of crisis, Lyon Metropole also supports associations on the front line for vulnerable people, notably the Red Cross, Secours Catholique and Secours Populaire.



Lyon Métropole is mobilizing €140,000 in exceptional aid for several associations working with the most vulnerable people during this crisis:

- €100,000 to the Red Cross and Secours Catholique to help people in difficulty. This aid is mainly targeted at families encountered during marauds.
- €40 000 € for Secours Populaire, which provides food aid to families in great difficulty.
- Provision of a Métropole agent at the operational headquarters of the Red Cross located in the 8th arrondissement, to facilitate exchanges between the community and the Red Cross on the front line in the health crisis.
- Outside visits are no longer allowed in establishments (Ehpad) for dependent, elderly people
- A COVID-19 contact plan is put in place to maintain regular contact with the most fragile isolated people, in conjunction with the Prefecture and the Regional Health Agency.
- The frailest of the elderly are called by Metropolitan volunteers (650 people called every day by agents).
- Due to the current pandemic, social aid / active solidarity income (RSA): 85,000 people in Lyon Métropole who received the personal autonomy allowance (APA), or disability compensation benefit (PCH), etc. - will be renewed automatically.
- RSA beneficiaries are sent back to the digital platform to receive payments, but this raises the problem of the digital divide.
- Lyon Métropole wanted to maintain the link with people on the path to economic integration and is mobilizing the “Maison Métropolitaine d'Insertion pour l'Emploi” to keep the link between companies and people on the path to integration.
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- Domestic violence is worsening: the Associations are mobilized and a reception center with 50 places has been opened in coordination with the Prefecture.
- Dedicated email addresses have been set up: solidarity, economy...
- Reactivation of the “Tous Unis Tous Solidaires” platform with the support of the city's agents to assist associations.

Cultural Sector

Maintaining the full amount of grants awarded:

- when events/festivals have been cancelled within the confinement period

- for costs due to operations
- on a case-by-case study of the impact on future events (summer and back-to-school festivals)

Associative Sector

Support for associations subsidized by the Metropolis: 3 possibilities:

- with an administrative certificate - advance on the basis of the year N-1 for the supported associations in operation each year
- by order of the President (details to be specified)
- following the deliberation at the next June Board meeting

Lyon Métropole has set up a generic mailbox to provide a first level of response to associations impacted by the crisis.

Education

- Opening of some colleges with three childcare workers from ASE childcare and child welfare professionals.
- The extension of childcare for the children of the staff of solidarity associations has been formulated for the Rectorate, without, however, any official response from the Rectorate.
- Lyon Métropole has asked to extend school childcare to the children of workers in the food, transport, and other professionals.

Food

After the closure of the open-air markets, Lyon Métropole coordinated with the Chamber of Agriculture to organize product distribution.

Lyon Métropole launched a major project with its partners to support the agricultural sector during this crisis period. Given that the food markets had just closed, this was a very important distribution tool for the 350 farms on the territory. The idea is to put farmers in touch with consumers; the former will be able to sell their produce and the latter will be able to consume locally produced fruit, vegetables, meat and eggs.



In concrete terms, here are the actions launched:

- Identification of producers in difficulty and their needs via the Rhône Chamber of Agriculture.
- Mutualized supply for solidarity grocery stores
- Call for digital platforms to connect producers and consumers
- Search for storage places and basket preparation
- Provision of open areas to collect orders by appointment, respecting health instructions and avoiding gatherings,
- search for other rapid distribution channels: social and solidarity grocery stores, Red Cross baskets delivered to people unable to move around, mass distribution, etc.
- Identification of places in the communes to redistribute products by creating additional sales outlets when there are no more markets.