

**Parisian measures to ease the lockdown
related to COVID-19 pandemic**

May 14, 2020 version

Context

Since March 17, 2020 general lockdown has become the basic rule for everyone in France. The easing of the confinement will start gradually on May 11, 2020. The Mayor of Paris, in agreement with Parisian District Mayors and representatives of all political parties has agreed on the following specific measures:

1- Protecting one another

Up to the time a vaccine and efficient treatments are found, the best protection against the virus remains physical distancing and barrier gestures, as explained by health authorities.

Face masks for citizens

The City of Paris has ordered to private companies **2.5 million cloth masks washable and reusable from 10 to 20 times**, and meeting the standards laid down by health authorities. They are currently being manufactured, mainly in Paris, and will be distributed free of charge. Starting May 11, pharmacists will start providing them to the Parisians.

District Town Halls will deliver, the week starting on May 11th, a first batch of 500.000 disposable face masks targeting in priority people older of 70 years, persons with chronic diseases and pregnant women. The goal is for all Parisians to have a mask by the beginning of June.

Availability of hydro-alcoholic gel in public areas

Hydro-alcoholic and soap dispensers will be made available in shops and in the public facilities and spaces managed by public transports operators. Special attention will be paid to support local production.

The JCDecaux company will equip 1500 bus shelters and 435 toilets with hydro-alcoholic gel dispensers.

Testing

Testing campaigns, that have primarily targeted workers and residents of the City medicalized nursing homes (EHPAD), will now be extended, first to municipal workers on the frontline. By May 5, all city staff will be able to book virus tests. Priority will be given to workers with symptoms, childcare and school staff, and workers in public facilities or spaces who interact with the general public.

In view of this, "PCR" tests have been ordered. Several locations are already up and working, like Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, which tests daily up to 400 people, and Rothschild Hospital (in the 19th district), where a "test-drive-in" has been set up. The City has also pre-ordered 150.000 serological tests, awaiting certification. Finally, Paris public Hospitals in association with the city **are currently mapping** the City to massively test and prevent new clusters in neighborhoods more impacted by the virus.

Adapted rooms in hotels made available to the infected

The City of Paris jointly with a group of stakeholders (Parisian Public Hospitals (AP-HP), city physicians, ACCOR company) has launched the "**COVISAN**" project. Specially **adapted rooms in hotels near Hospitals** are made available to those infected by COVID-19. Rooms are made **available for to two weeks to communities contagious people**, so as to protect their families and communities. They also benefit from an appropriate medical follow-up.

Educate the youngest

The city of Paris and UNICEF France have launched #coranastop a set of videos on line with various artists raising awareness on barrier gestures among young people. All videos are available on the City of Paris YouTube channel.

2- Easing the City confinement

Reopening of schools

On May 11 schools staff will return to school facilities, and by May 14 welcome pupils whose parents are agreeing to it, up to the quota established for each facility so that it can comply with recommended health protocols.

Three groups of pupils will be given priority in order to slowly ease the lockdown in accordance with social, pedagogical and economic goals.

- Pupils whose parents are **professionals fighting COVID-19 on the front-line, managing the health crisis, or working in a sector instrumental to the easing of the lockdown**, such as health workers, fire fighters, police officers, social workers, teachers, city staff and RATP public transport workers and SNCF staff. These pupils will attend full time.
- Priority will also be given to Parisian pupils in **last year of kindergarten, first-grade and last-grade of primary school**.
- In the same way, it will be suggested to pupils from **families particularly at risk from a social, educational or general vulnerability standpoint to attend**: these are children with disabilities, under the supervision of social services, unable to study at home or at risk of dropping out, with special concern for schools in deprived areas.

These children will attend in small groups of less than 15 pupils usually limited to 10-12 in primary schools and under 10 in kindergarten. It is estimated that **15% of the children** will be thus reintegrated.

Municipal services are fully focused on cleaning Parisian schools, setting up in every school kits of hydro-alcoholic gel dispensers and face masks provided by the Ministry of Education and the City of Paris, and reorganizing classrooms with floor markings to implement physical distancing.

The city of Paris will test all municipal staff interacting directly with schools. For further protection, peripheral measures will be enforced like banning road traffic in some areas at pupils' arrival time and limiting the size of gatherings in front of schools to avoid crowding.

230 Children care centers will open again with a capacity for 4.500 children representing about 20 to 25% of the total capacity.

Mobility

The City of Paris **requests that face masks be mandatory for those using public transports and hydro-alcoholic gel be provided** in all metro stations. This will be implemented under city supervision at bus and tram stops and in the stations of the city wide bike sharing system as well.

After the lockdown, the city of Paris in association with the State and the Parisian region **plans to shadow with bike lanes the routes of 1, 4 and 14 metro lines** to prevent an intensive surge in car use, reduce emissions that could worsen the health crisis and limit commuters in metros. A plan for seamless connection between Paris bike lanes and out the cycling facilities being set up in suburbs is being worked out.

Starting May 11, **50 km of Parisian roads will be gradually devoted to biking**. In addition to the axial Rue de Rivoli, new biking roads will include Avenue du general Leclerc, Boulevard Saint-Michel, Etoile tunnel and Porte Maillot. They will complement the already 1.400km of existing bike lanes in the French capital. **New parking slots connected to the bike lane network** will be made available to holders of public transport passes (Navigo) in existing parking facilities and areas, adding 2.000 slots over 30 locations in Paris outskirts.

Some thirty streets will made pedestrian to prevent crowding, especially around schools surroundings, railway stations and major commercial areas like les Halles.

Parisian **woods are re-opened since May 11th**. A proposition has been made to have all parks and gardens open with a gradually increasing quota of visitors. Initially, playgrounds would remain closed.

Summertime and its share of usual celebrations are almost there, **Paris Plages will be maintained** "in a lighter form"

3- For the most vulnerable people

In the city of Paris, several measures have been set up to meet the specific needs of the most vulnerable people (isolated and fragile elderlies, low-income families, persons with disabilities, students and social housing tenants). *These specific measures are detailed on pages 4 and 5 of " Measures to contain the spreading pandemic of COVID-19 ».*

4- For Parisian residents and private businesses

Paris already granted an aid fund of 100 million of euros for small and medium businesses, shops, and artisans as early as March 12, before the lockdown. On May 18th, the city council will vote to roll over these aids through September. Half of the aids will be allocated to back up and support the most vulnerable economic actors. **The commercial rents and miscellaneous municipal taxes they pay will be frozen**, and for restaurants and cafés, the terrace and road taxes they would be normally liable for, with expected savings of 10 million euros. Street vendors (€6M) and 13.000 Parisian taxis (€750.000) will be exempted from taxes. The tax on non-household waste will be removed (€5M).

To support Parisian economic operators the city of Paris has **listed an interactive map on Paris.fr displaying the home delivery system proposed by 900 small businesses**. It is also possible to shop on line for food from the capital's 9 food market halls and have the groceries delivered at home or picked up on site.

From May 12, **food markets will re-open** and enforce physical distancing guidelines. In the French capital, shopping centers and department stores of over 40.000m², restaurants, bars, movie theaters, artistic venues (concert halls, theaters), enclosed sport facilities, swimming pools, City and multipurpose halls will remain closed.

5- For culture

For cultural activities, a **4-step plan has been announced to gradually re-open Parisian cultural venues**:

- Starting May 11, theaters, museums and major Parisian cultural venues will be adapted to adjust to the new health guidelines ;
- By mid-June Parisian Museums will open partially, granting access to some of the rooms and collections to groups of 10 people;
- By July, some parks and gardens will gradually reopen , one district after another and offer opportunities to watch theater, play music or listen to readings;
- « August, Month of culture » a new event will propose concerts, dance, movies, artistic installations, and performances in parks, gardens and small squares in Paris.

On May 18, the Mayor of Paris will **present to the council of Paris an** endowment fund of 15 million of euros to support the city cultural entities in accordance with their needs. Paris has teamed up with the Ministry of Culture to create on an exceptional and temporary basis an emergency fund for visual arts, so as to provide show businesses with emergency aids as they are greatly weakened by COVID-19 pandemic, having been forced to cancel everything since March 14.

6- To promote citizen participation and democratic commitment

The great number of people willing to help and contribute since the beginning of the current health crisis, has led the city to **design a program for city volunteers**, "volontaires de Paris". When it is finalized this program will accompany those wishing to volunteer in Paris and provide them with **proper training**. An ambitious civic service recruitment program will also be implemented to provide **Parisian youth** with a foremost opportunity to contribute and be involved.

A **citizens' assembly** will complete the existing participatory program in order to promote stronger participation of Parisians in the decision-making process affecting them. This approach is in line with the citizens' municipal council.

Links and contacts

On paris.fr, consult the updated [measures to contain the spreading pandemic](#) and contact **Paris International Relations Department** by [e-mail](#)