

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

May 25, 2020 version

Context

Since March 17, 2020 general lockdown has become the basic rule for everyone in France. The easing of the confinement started 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 from private companies 2.2 million cloth masks meeting the standards laid down by health authorities —1 for each Parisian-- washable and reusable from 10 to 20 times. The masks are currently being manufactured, mainly in Paris and have been distributed since May 11 by pharmacists, free of charge. By June, all Parisians will be able to collect their mask upon registration on paris.fr. Cloth masks will be sent to the elderly and the disabled registered in the CHALEX file which has been set up by the City of Paris to support and monitor the most vulnerable.

District Town Halls delivered, the week starting on May 11th, a first batch of 250,000 disposable face masks targeting in priority people with chronic diseases, NGOs and merchants. The City of Paris has distributed one million single-use masks in the Metro-RER network as part of a joint effort with the Parisian region Prefecture, the SNCF and the Parisian Public transports RATP. Due to Paris high urban density, the mayor has also asked the French government to make the use of face masks compulsory in the city.

Availability of hydro-alcoholic gel and soap 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.

Since May 11, JCDecaux Company has equipped 1500 bus shelters (3 out of 4) and all 435 toilets with hydro-alcoholic gel dispensers.

The city of Paris is also working on other projects, with Eau de Paris to equip drinking water fountains with soap.

Testing

Testing campaign which have primarily targeted workers and residents of the City medicalized nursing homes (EHPAD), has been extended to municipal workers on the frontline. Since May 5, all city staff is able to book virus tests. Priority is given to workers with symptoms, childcare and school staff, and workers in public facilities or spaces who interact with the general public. Testing will also be offered to parents of pupils in schools on the basis of the epidemiological data collected on the virus circulation in Paris. Testing is intended to be extended to all Parisian schools.

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 returned to school facilities, and by May 14 welcomed pupils whose parents were agreeing to it, up to the quota established for each facility so that it can comply with recommended health protocols On May 14, 92% of Parisian kindergarten and elementary schools reopened.

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 attend full time.
- Priority is also given to Parisian pupils in **last year of kindergarten, first-grade and last-grade of primary school**.
- In the same way, it is 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 attend in small groups of less than 15 pupils usually limited to 10-12 in primary schools and fewer than 10 in kindergarten. It is estimated that **15% of the children** will be thus reintegrated. Overall about 15% of pupils will have attended elementary schools during the first two weeks which represents about 20,000 children out of a total of 130,000.

By the end of May the situation and operating conditions of schools will be assessed. Based on the findings, other families will gradually be offered the opportunity to send their children to schools.

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 (around 800 facilities). 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

As requested by the City of Paris, **face masks are mandatory for those using public transports and hydro-alcoholic gel is provided** in all metro stations. This is 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.

Since May 11, **50 km of Parisian roads are 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 Mail-lot. They complement the already 1,400km of existing bike lanes in the French capital. **New parking slots connected to the bike lane network** are 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.

Sidewalks have been widened and some thirty streets have been made pedestrian to prevent crowd-ing, particularly in the vicinity of schools, railway stations and major commercial areas like les Halles.

Outdoor facilities

On May 11, the Prefecture of Police, in agreement with the City of Paris, has granted access to some public areas -- the right and left banks of the river Seine, the Vincennes and Boulogne woods, the lawns of the Esplanade des Invalides and the Champ-de-Mars--. Individual physical activities are now allowed at any time in Paris.

The Mayor has also requested the reopening of the City parks and gardens, for walks only and making the wearing of masks mandatory. The Government has not given its approval yet.

Wakes and funerals are limited to 20 people in Parisian Cemeteries. Visits to family graves are allowed in the mornings and all day on Sundays.

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 pan-demic of COVID-19 ».*

To reinforce solidarity, Paris supports NGOs by providing financial assistance to 53 NGOs located in 7 dis-tricts designated as low-income neighborhoods under the City Urban Policy, to 67 NGOs offering 79 transi-tional jobs to jobseekers in working-class neighborhoods, to 17 NGOs taking part in *Ville Vie Vacances*, a summer program for the year 2020, and to 31 NGOs fighting violence against women. On May 18, the City council granted an exceptional aid to Parisian poorest families and free access to temporary pools set up in sport facilities this summer.

4- For Parisian residents and private businesses

During the City council of May 18, a general plan of € 200 M was voted to support private businesses, cul-tural operators and NGOs. With regard to economic operators, the following specific measures were agreed:

- Waiving of commercial rents charged by the City's real estate holdings to VSB and NGOs (€75 M). For other economic actors, commercial rents will be frozen for up to six months, depending on the impact of the crisis on their turnover.
- Miscellaneous municipal taxes will be waived for six months (terrace and road, street vendors, non-households waste, markets, fleamarkets, taxis) (€40 M).
- Investment subsidies in favor of shops, artisans, cultural business companies, young innovative en-terprises (€6 M)
- A support scheme targeting the tourism sector(€5 M)
- Financial support to social businesses (€4 M)

The City will also allow shops and artisans to use outdoor spaces to comply with physical distancing guide-lines and expand their operating areas or terraces. They will receive a methodological and logistics tactical kit to assist with the reopening of shops. Restaurant and café owners will also be able to extend their ter-

paces free of charge until September by taking over parking spaces on the kerbside or using the available space in front of shop windows. The Mayor also wishes to increase access to the City's public tenders, by promoting a Parisian Small Business Act designed to ensure that by 2025 9 out of 10 City providers of services are VSE/SMEs.

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 and opened markets have re-opened** and enforced 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 and NGOs

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 organized in partnership with local authorities of Greater Paris Metropole and the Off festival in Avignon, will draw from a dedicated €500,000 endowment to commission creative pieces from to be performed in front of very large audiences in redesigned public setting (concerts, dance, movies, shows, in parks, gardens and small squares in Paris).

On May 18, the Mayor of Paris presented **to the council of Paris an** endowment fund of 15 million of euros to support the city cultural entities in accordance with their needs. This budget includes: **€12 M for cultural venues and operators supported by the city and most affected by the crisis, €1.4 M for the movie industry including €300,000 for independent movies, €500,000 for the national center for Music, €700 000 for the emergency fund for live performing arts (theater, street art, circus) and €50.000 for the emergency solidarity fund of the Author and Composer Guild SACD.**

Paris has teamed up with the Ministry of Culture to create on an exceptional and temporary basis an emergency fund for live performing arts, so as to provide show businesses with emergency aids as they are greatly weakened by COVID-19 pandemic, having been forced to cancel all performances since March 14.

From the beginning of the sanitary crisis, the City decided to speed up the release of subventions to NGOs in order to preserve their cash position. The City also plans to create an endowment fund of 10 million for the NGOs it supports. On May 18, a financial aid was also granted to several NGOs working in social welfare (see point 3 "Supporting the most vulnerable").

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 pandemic](#) and contact **Paris International Relations Department** by [e-mail](#)