



COVID-19 Transitioning - Standards for adult learning activities

Version 2.0
Effective 7th June 2021

Applicability

The obligatory conditions in these Standards are issued under the Public Health Act CAP 465 and require strict adherence. Failure to adhere to these conditions will result in enforcement procedures as provided by the Act.

These standards apply for all learning activities for persons from post-secondary level onwards and for adults carried out in educational, work related or organisational settings, and which are not included in the standards applicable to extracurricular education and visual and performing arts education (Music, Art, Drama and Dance)¹.

Risk Assessment

Potential for COVID-19 spread can be exacerbated with opportunities for social contact such as in different educational, organisational and work settings.

Standards applicable to Adult Learning Activities

The following obligatory conditions shall apply to all adult learning activities as defined above:

LEARNERS / STUDENTS

- ✓ Online teaching is encouraged wherever possible. For in-person learning, attendance for each learner is to be accurately and timely recorded.
- ✓ It is recommended that learners arriving more than 10 minutes early should be asked to wait outside and not to gather in the main entrance.
- ✓ It is recommended that learners bring food and drink for their own consumption if necessary. No sharing of food and drink should be allowed on the premises.
- ✓ Any individual experiencing potential COVID-19 symptoms, even if mild, should not attend any sessions on the premises. Sick learners are to be sent home immediately.
- ✓ On arrival, learners are to go directly to class. They are to sanitize their hands upon entry into the premises and before and after class.
- ✓ Where a break is necessary, this is to take place either seated in the teaching room itself or in seating arrangements in an outside area. It is recommended that no breaks should be allowed in the waiting areas.

¹ <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Standards%20Extracurricular%20Visual%20Arts%20Education.pdf>



- ✓ Learners are to wear masks all the time irrespective of age.
- ✓ Where possible, learners are to remain in fixed groups. Bubbles need to be as small as possible.
- ✓ The capacity as recommended by the health department of 1 person per 4m² in each class including staff, should be adhered to at all times capped to a maximum number of 25 persons per class whatever the size of the class.
- ✓ An appropriate physical distance of 2 metres from others shall be maintained as much as possible in all areas.
- ✓ Where possible, markings indicating social distancing are to be made in all areas.
- ✓ Learners are not to share equipment or items unless they are wiped with appropriate sanitizing activities before and after change of use
- ✓ Good practice of respiratory etiquette should be followed and encouraged. Learners should avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth at all times but particularly with unwashed hands.
- ✓ Learners are not to engage in any social activities.
- ✓ No organised activities are allowed for or by the learners.
- ✓ Formal examination sessions shall be carried out in accordance to the mitigation measures laid out for such sessions².

STAFF

- ✓ Teachers all members of staff are to wear a mask or visor at all times.
- ✓ Clear records should be kept of time of arrival and departure of all members of staff as well as the class contact times.
- ✓ Members of staff who are not well, should not report to work.
- ✓ When using equipment, members of staff are asked to wipe down whatever they make use of before and after use.
- ✓ When meeting other members of staff, social distancing measures should be in place. Staff members are encouraged not to stay in common rooms or waiting areas.
- ✓ Teaching staff should ideally be the ones to move from class to class.
- ✓ Members of staff should maintain social distancing from the learners as much as possible.

² <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Standards%20and%20Guidance%20for%20Examinations.pdf>



BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

- ✓ Toilets must be cleaned regularly. A log detailing the time when the toilet facility has been cleaned and by whom should be filled in for each toilet facility. No cloth towels will be available but disposable towelling will be used instead. Airflow driers should not be used.
- ✓ Floor cleaning should be carried out regularly and as frequently as necessary. The following areas should be cleaned particularly thoroughly: door handles and any other handles on drawers, windows, etc., stairs and handrails, light switches, tables, phones, and all other grip areas. Lined waste bins should be provided for safe disposal of waste such as used masks.
- ✓ Proper indoor ventilation is essential. In order to ensure adequate circulation of air, and to reduce the level of pathogens in the air, windows and/or doors should be kept open throughout use of the class or workshop to allow for cross ventilation. The use of fans and air conditioners, shall be utilised as specified in the Guidance for Air-Conditioning and Ventilation Systems³.
- ✓ The sharing of equipment is to be avoided as much as possible and where possible students should be asked to bring their own. When using shared equipment, learners are responsible for sanitizing them after use.
- ✓ Class times should be staggered to avoid learners entering and leaving at the same time.
- ✓ Payment of fees should be made electronically where possible. It is recommended that no cash should be accepted.
- ✓ Posters with reminders of preventive measures should be prominently available in all areas.
- ✓ Collaborators and contractors who provide services are to abide by these same guidelines when providing a service (masks, signing on visitors' sheets, sanitising hands and objects, etc).

³ https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Guidance_Air-conditioning-and-ventilation-systems_23Jun20.pdf