

Coronavirus Guidelines at Espoo School of Art

August 14, 2020

Espoo School of Art takes the coronavirus pandemic very seriously. To keep our staff and students healthy, we abide by proper hygienic and safety standards, which are based on the recommendations of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare and the city of Espoo. The school will inform the student body and their guardians of all possible changes to these guidelines without delay. Please follow our website and social media pages for latest updates.

Protecting against the coronavirus pandemic requires all members of our community to be careful, responsible, and mindful of the school's rules. Please read through the following instructions on how to keep yourself and others safe.

Health and Travel

It is an utmost priority that no child and no adult will enter the school if they appear to be sick. Infectious diseases must be treated at home, or at a proper health care facility if the situation demands it. If a student falls ill during class, they must be taken home by their guardian at once.

Please be particularly cautious if a student is displaying symptoms of respiratory infection (cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath, muscle pain, diarrhea, and headache). For more information on the symptoms of the novel coronavirus and on how to seek treatment, please visit the city of Espoo's [website](#).

Guardians and adult students must assess the student's physical condition before attending a class at Espoo School of Art. If you are unsure of whether a student is healthy enough to go to class, please consult a doctor.

If a member of the staff or the student body has recently traveled abroad in countries affected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entry restrictions, Espoo School of Art requires them to self-isolate for two weeks before returning to the school. For more information on entry restrictions and countries at risk, please visit the [website](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Staying Safe During Class

Espoo School of Art maintains a high standard of hygiene and social distance during lessons to protect the community from infections. The staff and students are asked to mind the following rules and guidelines before, during, and after class:

Social distancing: Students must not remain too close to each other for too long. They will be seated approximately one meter apart from each other during class. Staff members will take social distancing guidelines into consideration when planning future lessons and events. We advise against shaking hands and all unnecessary touching.

Entering and leaving the school: To keep the hallways and the fronts of our classrooms from getting too crowded, we ask our students to avoid spending time inside the school's premises outside lessons. Please enter and leave the school punctually. These instructions also apply to guardians who escort

their children to art class. Unfortunately, teachers can no longer invite guardians to come inside the classroom to look at the students' artwork after class for safety reasons.

Hand hygiene: We ask all members of our community to pay close attention to hand hygiene. Students must wash their hands after entering the school, before and after eating something, and before leaving class. Students must also cough and sneeze into their sleeve or into a tissue, which must instantly be discarded, and they must wash their hands immediately after. Naturally, it is also important to wash one's hands after using the bathroom, and the toilet must be flushed with the lid closed. The faucet must be turned off using a paper tissue, not with bare hands.

Personal property: To maintain our hygienic standard, personal property (such as smartphones and backpacks) should not be handled in the middle of class without a good reason. Students should keep their personal property in the classroom's assigned storage space during lessons. Students should also be mindful of proper hand hygiene during snack breaks. We ask our students not to share food with other students for hygienic reasons.

Tools: Students should not pass art supplies or any other objects from hand to hand during lessons. All students are given their own personal tools and materials to work with, and they should not share their supplies with others. Please listen to the teacher's instructions before touching anything. All tools must be cleaned or moved aside according to the teacher's instructions at the end of each lesson. The screens and keyboards of digital devices must be wiped clean with a disinfectant wipe before use.

Protective gear: Soap, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and paper tissues will be readily available in all classrooms. Unfortunately, the school can no longer lend the students aprons, smocks, or seat cushions due to hygienic concerns. Hence, we advise our students to wear clothes that they do not mind getting stained during lessons. The face mask recommendations laid out by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare do not apply to Espoo School of Art; learn more about the face mask recommendations on their [website](#).

Maintenance: Classrooms will be cleaned often and all surfaces will be wiped with particular care during the pandemic. Students may also use protective mats and sheets to avoid direct skin contact with tabletops and other surfaces.

Teachers will oversee the implementation of these guidelines during lessons, and they will remind their students of the school rules as often as possible. The most important safety guidelines have also been printed on posters that can be found on the walls of our classrooms.

For further details on how to stay safe in specific locations and workshops of Espoo School of Art, please contact the teacher of your class. The principal of Espoo School of Art oversees the main guidelines of the school.

State of Emergency and Refunds

Espoo School of Art aims to provide in-person art education according to the curriculum. However, the school is prepared to switch to distance learning in case a state of emergency and new guidelines set by the city of Espoo and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare demand it.

If the school must switch to distance learning, students will be taught by their teacher through a video communication service according to the school's weekly schedule. Students will also be given art supplies for home use. However, the school will not be able to provide the students with digital devices

and other special equipment used in certain workshops (such as cameras and computers) as there would not be enough of them for everyone and thus the equipment could not be distributed equally.

Switching to distance learning is not a valid reason for a refund. Participants of the school's short courses may still ask for a refund if a sudden illness prevents them from attending any of the lessons, provided that they have a medical certificate of their condition, or if the entire course is cancelled before it even begins.

Principal Maritta Poijärvi will answer all further questions about the coronavirus guidelines of Espoo School of Art: maritta.pojjarvi@espoonkuvis.fi, 09 4257 8921

Learn more:

[The latest updates on the novel coronavirus in Finland on the website of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare](#)

[Coronavirus advice for the residents of Espoo](#)

www.espoonkuvis.fi

