

## COVID - 19 (Information for foreigners living in Slovakia regarding measures taken by the Slovak Authorities)

### Beginning of the school year 2020/2021

Due to the ongoing pandemic of COVID - 19, there are new obligations and measures introduced which must be carried out by students and their parents at the beginning of the school year 2020/2021.

1. The parent (or another legal representative of the child) will have to submit a **sworn declaration** stating whether the child has been outside the territory of the Slovak Republic since 17 August 2020 or whether he/she participated in a mass event and a declaration that child is not infectious.

If the child was outside the territory of the Slovak Republic or participated in a mass event, parent will be obliged to monitor the health condition of the child and his relatives living in the same household. If any of them develops symptoms of respiratory disease within the next 14 days, it will be necessary to inform the attending physician by phone.

2. During the **first two weeks of the school year**, the following rules will be applicable in Slovak schools:

- all primary school students, secondary school students and high school students will be obliged to wear a **facemask** in the internal premises of the school outside their classrooms, with the exception of consumption of food and drinks,
- secondary school students (2nd grade) and high school students will be obliged to wear a facemask in their classrooms as well,
- primary school students (1<sup>st</sup> grade) and children in pre-school facilities will not be obliged to wear a facemask in their classrooms. However, they are recommended by Ministry of Health.

Wearing facemasks for the first two weeks of the school year is very important for children, because they are mostly asymptomatic in the event of COVID-19 infection, which means that they can unknowingly transmit the disease to other people. Covering upper respiratory tract is an important prevention, because it prevents the explosive spread of viruses in the society and slows it down significantly.

3. Measurement of the body temperature at the school entry will be mandatory only if there are confirmed cases at the school.

4. The Ministry of Education has created a **coronavirus traffic light for schools**, which will determine the specific risk of infection for classes and schools. The green phase means that none of the students are infected. Orange means that one of the students has a positive coronavirus test, and red indicates a higher infection in class and school.