Equity in distance learning and inclusion measures

Deputy Mayor Harri Rinta-aho
The City of Espoo
• 1,384 confirmed infections (31 March 2020). Actual rate estimated to be higher

• Helsinki-Uusimaa Region isolated due to high rate of confirmed cases

• Suspension of schools, libraries, cultural and sports venues etc.
Answering to equity challenges in distance learning

Digital preparedness before the closures
- Digital learning environments and capacity building for teachers in collaboration with companies and partners
- Digital platform for dialogue between home and school (Wilma)

Measures taken due to the new situation
- The leading role of the principal and the guiding role of the teacher even more highlighted
- Access: Pupils can borrow digital devices at school
- Meals: Distribution of snack bags to pupils
- School welfare services online, face-to-face meetings according to need
- Pupils in need of extra support, children in early education and pupils in grades 1-3 may attend kindergarten / school
Supporting the wellbeing of children and youth outside of school

- Youth work
  - Youth workers online: game communities, chat services, social media
  - Outreach youth work and face-to-face appointments according to need

- Culture and sports online provided by the city and a wide variety of partners
Reaching out to 70+ seniors

- Extended service hours at call centre for seniors
- Grocery shopping service in collaboration between the city and local civic organisations
Providing support for a culturally diverse population

• Coronavirus information and instructions in 10 languages
• Corona chatbot service to be launched in the beginning of April (in 100 languages)
• Multilingual counselling service provided eg. by volunteers and library staff