



**ESPOO**  
**ESBO**

# **Equity in distance learning and inclusion measures**

Deputy Mayor Harri Rinta-aho  
The City of Espoo



# General situation in Finland

- 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

