



Press
Release

The Inter-territorial Board of the Spanish National Health System agrees specific measures for those areas affected by significant levels of coronavirus infection

9 March 2020. The Inter-territorial Board of the Spanish National Health System, together with the Department of Health and the Autonomous Communities, today agreed a series of special measures for those areas affected by significant levels of coronavirus infection. Currently, these measures apply to the Autonomous Community of Madrid, the city of Vitoria, and Labastida, in the Basque Country.

Among other actions, the following preventive measures are being applied in educational and work settings:

1. Education:

- a. Suspension of classroom teaching across all educational levels (Universities, A-Level, Secondary, Primary, Pre-school, Playgroups, and Vocational Training, among others).
- b. Suspension of complementary/extra-curricular activities.

2. Recommendations for the workplace:

- a. Remote working recommended wherever possible.
- b. Emergency plans to ensure continuity of output to be reviewed and updated.
- c. Flexible working hours to be applied, including staggered shift patterns where possible, to minimise concentrated contact between employees.
- d. Videoconferencing to be encouraged in place of face-to-face meetings.

Meanwhile, the Inter-territorial Board has agreed to implement a further series of measures across the entire Spanish territory for specific locations. These include:

1. Promoting home-based care for the elderly.
2. The express recommendation that all elderly people suffering from chronic illnesses, multiple pathologies, or congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies should restrict their movements beyond the home. In all cases, people are advised to avoid crowded places in which it is difficult to maintain a safe personal space of at least one metre.

Other, more general, measures include:

1. A call to avoid all unnecessary journeys, on the basis of individual responsibility.
2. A call to people experiencing early respiratory symptoms and/or a high temperature to self-isolate at home, to avoid attending health centres in person, as far as their clinical condition allows, and to avoid going to their place of work.