



Épendes Observatory's COVID-19 precautionary measures

Version 6 of July 8, 2020, applicable as of July 17, 2020

1. Introduction

The following precautionary measures must be followed on the premises of the astronomical observatory of Épendes. Other measures may be introduced if the situation so requires, assuming those measures are compliant with the requirements listed in the federal coronavirus ordinance and offer a similar or improved protection.

These precautionary measures are published on the observatory's web site and visitors are invited to review them.

The framework conditions must be thoroughly, clearly, and repeatedly communicated to all participants before and during their visit to the Épendes observatory.

The person in charge of the execution of those measures and of the communication with relevant authorities is the president of the Association des Amis de l'Observatoire d'Épendes.

2. Framework conditions

The framework conditions are applicable to all the activities conducted at the observatory and must always be observed.

2.1. Symptoms of illness

L Animators, participants, and accompanying persons showing symptoms of illness are not allowed to access the observatory of Épendes.

2.2. Basic hygiene rules

Hygiene rules currently enacted by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) (frequent and thorough hand washing, no handshaking, no physical contacts, etc.) must be observed.

2.3. Physical distancing and contact with instruments

Activities held at the observatory of Épendes cannot always ensure physical distancing of at least 1.5 metre. They also suppose that participants touch instruments with their hands and face (eyepieces).

Consequently, specific hygiene rules must be observed to help reduce risks of contamination as much as possible. Those rules, detailed below, include the wearing of masks and safety over-glasses to reduce exposure (non-exhaustive list).

3. Specific rules related to the different types of activities

3.1. Public visits (Friday evenings, Sundays)

Visitors

Visitors are required to book their places prior to coming, this is done on the observatory of Épendes' website. The booking process requires the contact coordinates of the participants. Those data are kept for 14 days to allow the traceability of potential infections after a confirmed case of infection by the SARS-CoV-2.

The number of visitors is limited to 15 (either adults or children).

The visits are held regardless of weather conditions.

The wearing of a surgical mask is mandatory. The wearing of safety over-glasses is mandatory during observations through the instruments. However, these protections are not required for children of primary school age.

Animators

The wearing of a surgical mask is mandatory.

The wearing of safety over-glasses is mandatory during observations through the instruments.

Other prescriptions

Any activity within the planetarium and the dome is prohibited.

Safety over-glasses are disinfected before any event.

3.2. Planned group visits

Visitors

The visit organiser establishes a list of all participants with their contact coordinates to allow the traceability of potential infections after a confirmed case of infection by the SARS-CoV-2.

The wearing of a surgical mask is mandatory. The wearing of safety over-glasses is mandatory during observations through the instruments. However, these protections are not required for children of primary school age.

Animators

The wearing of a surgical mask is mandatory.

The wearing of safety over-glasses is mandatory during observations through the instruments.

Other prescriptions

L Any activity within the planetarium and the dome is prohibited.

Safety over-glasses are disinfected before any event.

3.3. Visits by groups of children (passeports vacances)

Visitors

The visit organiser establishes a list of all participants (including accompanying persons) with their contact coordinates to allow the traceability of potential infections after a confirmed case of infection by the SARS-CoV-2.

When possible, physical distancing rules (1.5 metre between people) apply between adults and between adults (animators and accompanying persons) and children.

Accompanying persons must wear a surgical mask; should they also take part in activities, the same rules as with public visits apply to them.

Animators

The wearing of a surgical mask is mandatory.

The wearing of safety over-glasses is mandatory during observations through the instruments.

Other prescriptions

Any activity within the planetarium and the dome is prohibited.

Safety over-glasses are disinfected before any event.

3.4. School group visits

Precautionary measures for school group visits will be published in due time to match the evolution of the situation.

In the meantime, the measures for the visits by groups of children are applicable.

4. Information

The precautionary measures published by the FOPH are displayed at the entrance of the observatory of Épendes.

Participants are reminded that in case of illness, they must be put themselves into isolation according to the FOPH's prescriptions.

Animators are informed about their rights and the precautionary measures. They receive a training on the proper implementation of the precautionary measures.