

School, green pass and vaccines: the five things to know Between 6 and 20 September students from all over Italy will return to class. In the second school year that begins during the Covid-19 pandemic, there are still many questions that circulate and feed the public and political debate: at what point are vaccinations for school staff, and does it make sense to vaccinate even the youngest?

Has the Privacy Guarantor really rejected the obligation to have a green pass for school staff?

And is Italy the only country in Europe to have imposed this measure? We have tried to answer the most frequent doubts, putting together the information currently available. Before we begin, let's briefly see how the next school year will be organized. How back to school works this year On August 6, the Draghi government launched the "2021-2022 School Plan", the package of rules governing the imminent resumption of teaching.

Lessons will begin face to face. A possible transition to distance learning will be possible only through specific measures of the governors of Regions or provinces that have passed through the orange or red zone, or through initiatives launched by individual educational institutions but "only in circumstances of exceptional and extraordinary necessity".

The Technical Scientific Committee (CTS) stated that it considers the maintenance of face-to-face teaching as an "absolutely necessary" priority throughout the year. One of the main novelties for the next school year is that, starting from September 1st and until at least December 31st, all school staff will have to show the green pass to access the buildings.



The obligation also applies to university students, while pupils up to the fifth grade are exempt. The CTS also considered it unnecessary to carry out swabs or other screening operations for students entering the classroom, but some regions are still organizing themselves to carry out sample tests. Press sources also report that the Higher Institute of Health (ISS) is studying a protocol to carry out salivary tests on 110,000 pupils every month.

In the event that a student should test positive for coronavirus, the procedures to be followed will be diversified according to the vaccination status of classmates: the vaccinated in fact will have to stay in quarantine for seven days, while for the unvaccinated the duration of the quarantine remains 10 days. In both cases it is necessary to swab at the expiration of the quarantine, before returning to the classroom.

After this premise, let's now see what are some of the most common questions related to school and the pandemic.

How many are vaccinated among the school staff? According to the latest report from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, updated to 20 August 2021, a total of 81.8 percent of school staff are fully immunized, and 84.2 percent have received at least one dose. According to the latest data, 186,571 people have not yet received even a dose: 12.2 percent of the total.

As regards the situation at the regional level, as of 20 August in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Campania 100 per cent of school staff had received at least one dose of the vaccine, followed by Lazio (99.5 per cent)

and Abruzzo (99.4 per cent). In the last places we find Sardinia (67.1 per cent), the autonomous province of Bolzano (63.5 per cent) and finally Sicily (58 per cent).

As we have already explained, these data have been contested by several regions - generally those at the bottom of the rankings - and may be inaccurate. The vaccination campaign for school staff has in fact been started and interrupted several times since January, also due to changes in the directions for administration for the AstraZeneca vaccine.

It is therefore possible that some teachers, technicians or administrators have been vaccinated without indicating their profession, but booking themselves like everyone else, and therefore do not fall within the official statistics. Precisely for this reason, the Commissioner for the Covid-19 emergency Francesco Paolo

Figliuolo asked the regions to deliver certain numbers on the subject by 20 August, but at the moment it is not clear if this has been done and therefore if the numbers contained in the report above mentioned can be considered definitive. Is the green pass for school staff only in Italy? In a recent fact-checking we verified whether the obligation of a green pass for school staff exists only in Italy, as stated by some politicians.

The answer is "nì", even if our country is among the most severe in this field.

Among the large European countries, France and Spain have not yet imposed either vaccination or the obligation of a negative swab or certificate of recovery for school staff. On the contrary, several German Länder will require both school staff and unvaccinated students to submit the results of a negative anti-Covid test twice a week in order to gain access to the buildings.



In fact, this is also possible in Italy, where non-vaccinated people must present a negative swab every 48 hours to obtain the green pass. The same solution was also adopted by Greece and it seems that other European states are moving in this direction. Has the Privacy Guarantor rejected the green pass? Several politicians have criticized the decision to impose the use of the green pass in schools, a measure seen as "discriminatory" against teachers and staff.

Among others, Senator Paolo Giuliadori, former 5-star Movement now in the Mixed group, stated that the Privacy Guarantor would also have expressed himself in a negative way regarding the green pass, explicitly declaring, in a provision "of 13 May", that "in places no discrimination related to anti Covid vaccination is allowed".

The provision to which Giuliadori refers is the address document "Vaccination in the workplace: general indications for the processing of personal data", published on 13 May. There we read what Giuliadori reported: according to the Privacy Guarantor "it is not allowed to derive any consequence, neither positive nor negative, due to the free choice of the worker in order to join the vaccination campaign or not".