

RISE NMI activities to combat COVID-19, 2020-05-19

The Swedish NMI is organized within the polytechnical research institute RISE Research Institute of Sweden, an organization with both a history of and a strength in technical competence and testing capabilities of the highest relevance for the society.

Some examples on how use these capabilities in support of the fight against COVID-19 are:

- Fast testing of personal protection equipment (PPE)
 - PPE-testing usually takes weeks to months and is rather extensive. The testing protocols have been adjusted to the new circumstances without reducing the protection level of the users. Since the covid-19 equipment is produced for immediate single-use, tests of ageing in storage and wear and tear of washing is omitted.
 - Tested products include visors, aprons, coveralls and scrubs.
 - Approved products are marked “covid-19” and will not automatically be approved for use after the pandemic.
 - Filters in face masks are tested with increased capacity
- The development of pharmaceuticals, i.e. vaccines and cures, requires a substantial amount of computations. The data-center research group of RISE supplies computation capabilities for these tasks free of charge
- During the pandemic, schools for the younger are still in operation while high-school and universities are closed, and teaching is moved online. RISE have participated in the development of a shool@home portal where teachers get support in how to create an efficient and pedagogical digital classroom.
- RISE, in collaboration with health organizations and authorities, have launched the web-portal “digitalvardochomsorg.se” (digitalhealthandcare) to coordinate and inspire personnel in health, care and social services for the use of digital tools. The site offers knowledge and tools to free up time and find new ways to work. “Breaking people's isolation without having physical contact is an area where we want to provide inspiration. It is about services for employees in healthcare, care and social services and for all of us”. The site is also important as a quality check on information, in a time of digital posts of news with questionable fact confirmation.