

Energy crisis: universities suspend attendance



Symbolic image: Cuba waits for new oil deliveries (Source: [Markus Dall/Unsplash](#))

The acute fuel shortage, which has been causing long lines at gas stations in Cuba for several weeks, has now led to far-reaching saving measures. Several universities announced they would suspend face-to-face classes during the last week of April. First provincial governments announced rationing plans.

The University of Santa Clara, "Marta Abreu," announced it would not resume face-to-face classes until May 3. Students are urged to get exercise assignments through the Moodle online portal of the institution next week while lecturers will receive free Internet access for the period. This is [reported](#) by the newspaper of the student association FEU, "Alma Mater". The universities of Holguín, Artemisa, Sancti Spíritus, and the Agricultural College of Havana will also suspend face-to-face classes next week, and student housing will be partially closed. The universities of Pinar del Río, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Camagüey, Las Tunas, the University of Havana (UH) and the Technical University of Havana (CUJAE), on the other hand, announced that they will continue attendance on Monday with adjustments. Thus, there will be no exams at UH next week. Lecturers are urged not to take extreme delays into account when classes begin and to keep content available online whenever possible.

Cuba's Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy announced Tuesday the government's decision to ration fuel in the coming weeks due to the current shortage situation. He said the country currently has only 400 of the 500 to 600 tons it consumes each day. According to the minister, this is due to failures and delays on the part of central suppliers. In addition, due to ongoing maintenance work on large power plants, Cuba is increasingly using diesel fuel for power generation, which is lacking for the transport sector. According to O Levy, the situation is expected to continue through May, with the "first suppliers already returning to their commitments," he said.

The conservation measures include severely limiting the dispensing of fuel at gas stations to maintain "vital services" such as ambulance transport, dialysis, telephone and electricity utility maintenance vehicles, and funeral services. In Havana, dispensing limits of 100 liters of diesel and 40 liters of gasoline per vehicle went into effect Tuesday. Villa Clara province announced the temporary complete suspension of gasoline sales. "With full transparency, we inform you that today we do not have the necessary amount of fuel to organize the sale," read the page of the citizen portal "Soy Villa Clara" on Saturday. Only "authorized private carriers for public transport" can be guaranteed a minimum quantity.

On Sunday, state oil company Cupet denied speculation that the fuel crisis was the result of re-exports of refined fuels, as supplies from friendly Venezuela increased, according to freighter data. "Cupet does not export fuels because demand is not guaranteed," Director General Néstor Pérez Franco clarified to the news portal Cubadebate. He referred to import restrictions and high prices on the world market "that make it very difficult for the country to access this product" and explained that the quantities supplied from Venezuela could only cover basic needs. "We are working to eliminate the bottleneck that affects us all as soon as possible," Pérez said. ([Cubaheute](#))