

Dear AISZ Community,

I sincerely hope that you enjoyed some well earned family time over the last week - even with the weather being so bad. It is important at times like this to replenish and recharge.

Unfortunately, our prediction about returning to school amid higher numbers of positive COVID-19 cases has proved correct. We have seen skyrocketing case numbers throughout Europe and the Northern Hemisphere. Today, Croatia surpassed 1000 new cases and the weekly accumulated numbers has been near 1000 just in Zagreb over the last seven days.

Some of our neighbors in Europe have also seen quickly increasing numbers. For example France, Spain, Czech Republic, Poland, and many others have all witnessed ballooning numbers. Although Croatia is still better than most in the overall situation, we can no longer assume that location or geography will keep us free from the virus.

At this time, we must all focus on our own behaviors in order to keep ourselves and others safe and our school open. At no other time during the pandemic than right now, has the choice of how we behave and what we choose to do, been so important. Our continuing goal is to keep our students and community as safe as we can in the circumstances and to maximise in person class learning.

Afternoon Dismissal & Pick Up Time.

Masks and Social Distancing

From Monday, masks and social distancing protocols will be strictly adhered to until either inside a car or outside the campus perimeter. Students and parents must leave the campus as soon as possible at the end of the day without mingling.

Leading up to the break many students and parents were beginning to relax mask and distance rules at afternoon pick up time. Groups were being formed and students were removing masks as soon as they got out of the building in the afternoon. From Monday it is absolutely essential at this time for masks to be worn until off campus, or in a vehicle that has come to collect them.

Parents who are waiting for students must remain 1.5 meters away from each other and be wearing masks.

Morning Temperature and Self Monitoring of Symptoms

At no time should a student be sent to school if displaying any symptoms associated with COVID-19. *We understand that moving into the cold, flu and allergy season students may present with a range of symptoms similar to COVID-19.*

It is absolutely essential that students and staff who display any flu like symptoms remain at home until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours. This period of isolation is of critical importance to

remaining COVID Free. It is the school's expectation that all temperature checks are completed and noted in the students health diary which will continue to be checked each morning. Any student or staff member presenting with any flu like symptoms will be immediately sent home. Please do not administer panadol, paracetamol or any fever reducing medicine and then send your child to school. This action has the potential to close down the entire school.

Self Monitoring and rapid medical assessment is of vital importance especially for those families who have recently visited other countries with rapidly increasing numbers such - as but not limited to - France, Spain, Czech Republic, Poland, UK Bosnia. There are many others.

Personal Hygiene

Handwashing with soap and water is best.

Although hand sanitizer is effective, frequent hand washing with warm water and soap is actually a better defense. Also it is important to refrain from touching your eyes or face

Maintain your social distance, social bubble and avoid mingling in crowds.

Limiting the people you engage with will effectively reduce chances of infection.

We saw over the summer that social distancing was becoming relaxed. In the Spring people did well avoiding others but as the summer went on we all became more relaxed. It is time to return to keeping distance from others to maintain a “space of safety”.

Follow all Official Health Advice

Undoubtedly we will be hearing of increasingly strict measures over the next few weeks or months. It is important to keep aware of what the regulations, advice and changes are and follow them.

At AISZ our continuing goal is to be as effective during the next 3 months as we were in the last 3 months. Your teachers and staff are dedicated to this. Their physical and mental load has increased dramatically as they prepare for both virtual and face to face learning. We are all committed to your children. On behalf of all of us, I thank you for the diligence you as families have shown in keeping AISZ COVID Free. I am now asking you to continue to reinforce your efforts and follow the procedures we have in place.

The next quarter is going to be challenging, but together we can - and will - get through it successfully.

With continued appreciation for our community,

Yours sincerely

Paul Buckley