

Dear AISZ Community,

General Update

We have just completed our third day of online learning and I hope you and your children are feeling ok – this is a new experience for everyone. We are collecting feedback as we go, so please make sure you or your children are letting your teachers know how it is going.

Please remember that this is an unprecedented global situation where so many students, teachers and parents are working (or will be working) online together. Therefore, there are a lot of things that are unknown. You as parents - and your children as students - need to feel that it is ok not to be perfect and if there are complications or too much to do - or keep up with - let your teachers know.

What we have learned from international schools in China, is that overwork and burn out can be a real issue if this situation goes over a prolonged period of time. International Schools in China have been working this way for almost two months. We all need to be aware of this and for teachers to be informed as the enthusiasm wanes and the novelty wears off. Thank you to all the parents who are involved in assisting our students at home. We all recognize the impact that this has had on family life. On that note, it is important not to let this current situation cause tensions in the home / life dynamic if possible. If you need to “let some stuff go” it is ok to do that but keep in close touch with your teachers and counselor and learning support teacher as a support if you need to reach out. This is also important to recognize for students with different attention and independence spans.

We have a schedule that, with modifications, can support learning for about two weeks. We are currently assessing the likelihood of this school closure continuing *more* than two weeks. If that were the case, the current schedule would need to be realigned with a more sustainable model. This has been the experience in other locations. We are also working on Online Safeguarding with regard to screen time, keeping safe while online and maintaining personal and digital security.

Government Updates

Travel recommendations are changing daily and the AISZ website cannot not keep up with all the changes for different countries. You are recommended to check frequently the Croatian recommendations and that of the country you are traveling to. In general all non-essential travel should be avoided.

The City of Zagreb has opened a free hotline **0800 9999**, which is available to citizens **24 hours a day**, where all relevant coronavirus information can be obtained.

The telephone numbers of the *Teaching Institute for Public Health* "Dr. Andrija Štampar" on the danger of coronavirus infection are also available to the citizens from 8.00 to 20.00:

- +385 1 64 68 336
- +385 1 64 68 331
- +385 1 64 68 332

Good News

The first "close contact" case I informed you about in an earlier Director's Update has completed the mandatory 14 day self quarantine with no symptoms arising, and the family of our parent who is a confirmed case, have had their second tests and show no symptoms and will continue quarantine until completed the 14 days. The affected parent has only mild symptoms and is doing well. In Croatia at time of writing, there are 69 confirmed cases, 5 healed and 0 deaths related to COVID-19.

The Croatian Institute of Public Health has released a new website [koronavirus.hr](https://www.koronavirus.hr) which, if you use Google, it translates into English. This has the latest government updates on it. The AISZ leadership believes that it will not be long now until we see a further lockdown of activities and travel in Zagreb so please keep abreast of media and government releases. For people not speaking Croatian the news portal *Total Croatia News* <https://www.total-croatia-news.com> regularly has accurate updates in English.

Campus Access Closed

We've had some parents and students ask about coming onto the AISZ campus to pick up books and other resources. Since AISZ is officially closed, and with the safety and welfare of our entire community in mind, faculty and staff are not coming onto campus while we are closed with the exception of essential functions (disinfecting and maintenance, IT support, etc.) In addition, parents and students are not to come onto the school campus while it is closed. If the current school closures extend beyond March 30th, we will reassess whether we will run staggered times to collect material.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding. Thank you too, to all the parents who are involved in assisting our students at home. We all recognize the impact that this has had on life at home. On that note, it is important not to let this current situation cause tensions in the home / life dynamic. If you need to "let some stuff go" it is ok to do that. Keep in close touch with your teachers and counselor and learning support teacher as a support if you need to reach out.

This is a difficult time for all of us as we navigate the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Buckley