



American International School of Zagreb

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Dear AISZ Community,

The AISZ Board of Trustees met today to review the [government guidelines for reopening schools](#), listen to feedback from lower school meetings with parents last week, and to determine the best path forward for the rest of this academic year in light of the current situation in Croatia.

Continuation of Distance Learning Program until June 10, 2020

The AISZ Board of Trustees determined that continuing the Distance Learning Program through the scheduled end-of-year (June 10, 2020) will allow AISZ to provide the highest quality instruction while meeting the health and safety needs of AISZ students.

The recommendations released on Thursday April 30th from the Croatian Institute of Public Health expressed the health determination that:

Spending time in kindergartens and schools may present a higher risk of COVID-19 infection for children than staying in the family home/households, especially if the members of the household are involved in such a type of daily obligations that allow them to consistently avoid situations of high risk of COVID-19 infection.

The Institute also recommends:

Remaining at home when that is possible. We encourage remaining at home for all children whenever possible, taking into account that the number of children in kindergartens and school may be such that it may not be possible to respect measures of physical distance in such collectives. Since online education will continue, we encourage the education of children in grades 1-4 (Croatian Elementary School) from home, in all situations where it is possible.

In addition to the Croatian government's strong recommendations to support continued online learning, the Institute of Public Health provided the strict guidelines for reopening schools. These measures included the age range of students, limiting students to groups of nine, maintaining social distancing, and physical operational restrictions that would negatively impact AISZ's ability to meet the social and educational needs of our students. The community feedback and recent information gathering undertaken last week indicated that a majority of parents would choose not to send their children to school even if AISZ reopened for grades 1-4. As AISZ leadership and faculty cannot deliver both live and online learning simultaneously at the same high level, this leads the Board of Trustees to conclude that children's learning will be best served by committing to distance learning through the end of the academic year rather than disrupt students' learning so close to the end of year on June 10th.

As Upper School Grade levels continue to be run online throughout Croatia, AISZ will continue with the Institute's recommendations that online learning for these grades will continue as well.

While there were many factors considered, the health and wellbeing of our students, faculty, and indeed our entire community, is the key driver of this decision. The school administration will send plans for the end of year with regard to transitions, the collection and returning of equipment and other end of year procedures in the near future.

With regards to the academic year 2020-21, families should know that (barring any limitations imposed by the Croatian authorities or other major obstacles) AISZ fully intends to reopen on August 19 and has already begun extensive planning for a successful opening.

Yours Sincerely,

AISZ Board of Trustees

May 4, 2020.

Hyperlink below:

[COVID19 Guidelines for schools and kindergartens English & Croatian](#)