

Dear AISZ Community,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer and found some time to relax and enjoy some quality family time. Welcome to our new families that have joined us this year and hope soon you will feel a part of our community too.

I just wanted to reach out to you prior to the opening of school to share some important information. I will also be sending regular updates to keep you informed as we move towards opening school in August.

Our first new teacher arrived yesterday, Ms Cheri Amarna (US Science & STEAM) and all our preparations for her smooth entry into Croatia made this fairly straightforward. She will be isolating and undergoing a PCR test, as will all our new arrivals. It is important to note that depending upon where you are traveling from, there maybe the obligation to self isolate / quarantine for a specific amount of time. This will affect when students can enter AISZ too, so your arrival from a place of holiday could impact the start date of your child. Please beware of this fact when planning your return.

As you know we built our Re-Opening Plan in May and June and we have been monitoring the situation over the summer. We will be working closely with the Regional Epidemiologist for our area and they will be reviewing our opening plan, social distancing protocols and our one way movement around the campus and give us advise which we will implement. It is very important for us to do this, as we open almost a month before Croatian schools, so it is unlikely we will have any official guidlelines by early August. Therefore, it is important for us to work closely with the health authorities and follow their advice.

I would ask you to refamiliarise yourself with our opening plans which can be found on our website at this [link](#), but be aware there may well be some changes - however the overall will most likely stay the same. I would also like you to consider worst case scenario in which at any time throughout the up coming year school may need to go virtual again. This is not something we want to happen but it is important for each family to consider the possibility and how this would impact you individually. It is our intention to maximize face to face learning as much as possible while ensuring health and safety of students and faculty.

Schools around the world are facing the continuation of these unprecedented times and as such it is the shared responsibility of all members of individual school communities to work together and be supportive in order to provide the best and safest education possible in these changing and demanding circumstances.

So what can you do leading up to school opening?

- Talk to your children openly about social distancing requirements, make sure they understand and follow safe hygiene procedures as a regular part of their day to day lives.
- Be aware that school will probably look different from what we are used to.
- Re-read our AISZ Re-Entry Plan, but be aware some of the specific things may be adapted over the next few weeks.
- Become aware of the three possible formats for ongoing education and how they impact you: [On Campus Learning, Hybrid On Campus Learning and Virtual Learning Program.](#)
- If you haven't already got one, purchase a home thermometer which will be needed to fill in the daily temperature log prior to coming to school each day.
- Consider some home-based *worst case contingency plans* in case the epidemiological situation rapidly changes as we move into autumn and winter.
- AND
- Enjoy the rest of your summer!

As we work with the regional epidemiologist I will be sending more updates as we get closer to opening day.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Buckley