

Dear AISZ Community

As you are aware we are constantly in contact with the Health services of Croatia. Please see the latest update, travel advice and recommendations from Dr Romana Chevrier:

Dear AISZ Community,

We managed to successfully reach our first milestone – keeping our School open and functional for all our students and staying COVID free for the whole two months.

Since August, and after the summer when the Croatian Government has fully opened the borders for all EU countries, the epidemiological situation is progressively deteriorating.

Although still among the lower numbers comparing to other countries, the number of infected people has been quickly and continuously increasing.

In some European countries and in certain Croatian regions, the healthcare system is already under pressure, with high hospital and ICU bed occupancy rates.

We are all closely following daily briefings from the Croatian Crisis Headquarters, and we are familiar with the intentions of Croatian Government to introduce stricter epidemiological measures, which have proved to be effective in controlling the pandemic in early spring this year.

As all other EU governments, the Croatian Government will also try to avoid, at all cost, the complete lockdown of the economy and infrastructure, including educational institutions.

*Unfortunately, even with timely and strict implementation of all epidemiological measures, the overall risk of COVID-19 is assessed as **high** for the general population.*

The current model of learning while implementing epidemiological measures diligently has been and will be in the future the only way for us to ensure health and safety for our students and personnel.

Our priorities stay the same; to protect our students and staff's health and wellbeing while ensuring continuous and high-quality education.

With your full cooperation and support, we will keep doing everything within our power to keep the school open and functional.

We all have the same goal, to protect the health of our children while ensuring their social and emotional wellbeing.

We would like to emphasize again, to all the members of the AISZ community the following:

stay prudent and vigilant while traveling within or outside the EU countries, within Croatia or staying in Zagreb.

Take into consideration the COVID numbers in your surroundings.

Respect recommended epidemiological measures for the country/region you're visiting.

Please, be aware of the possibility that epidemiological measures might change very quickly and become stricter. You might be required to self-isolate when returning from another EU country or even from another Croatian region.

The WHO Guidance indicates that high school students pose a higher risk of spreading the virus. We all know that social interaction for students of this age is extremely important. For this reason, try to monitor as closely as you can, your children's activities.

Please note that social events with larger groups of people are currently a major source of new COVID cases.

Our human instinct is to be more relaxed around our family, friends, colleagues, or people we know. This disease doesn't resemble any other disease we know or have encountered so far!

Regardless of how awkward it might seem, do stay vigilant and do not forget about protecting your health even when surrounded with your family members or close friends you have not seen for some time.

Kind regards,

Dr. Romana Chevrier