

Dear AISZ Community,

As I said in the last Director's Update, the upcoming quarter will be a very difficult one with the increasing cases in the community. We are paying very close attention to the ever increasing COVID-19 situation in Croatia and Zagreb.

Positive Cases present during Holidays

Since the holiday, we have had 14 students isolating at home who have not been in school. Of those who are isolating, 3 students have been tested positive with COVID-19. The total number of students represent 8 families covering the grades PreK, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

These students have not been in contact with anyone from school during the incubation period or after. Of these three students, one is in grade 11 and 2 students are in grade 8. Again these students have not been in contact with other students either during the incubation period or after.

Contact Identified today

Also today, we were informed by a parent in Grade 10 that they had tested positive, with their symptoms presenting on Monday. Since Monday, in the house they were wearing masks and following appropriate procedures. The student was in school yesterday and today and was immediately sent home and contract tracing was commenced.

Medical recommendations from both the epidemiologist and Dr. Romana are that although the student is a contact, the rest of our grade 10 students and staff are "contacts of a contact" and all interactions have been socially distanced and masked. **As such Medical professionals agree there is no need to isolate the Grade 10 at this point.**

Three Different Scenarios

We have organized our school in such a way - to the best of our ability - to be able to continue to function during the COVID-19 pandemic. But as the situation continues to change I want to share with you three scenarios of our response.

"Contacts of a Contact" Scenario

For "contacts of a contact" the recommended procedures would be as above.

- Student isolated and sent home.
- The school contacts the epidemiological and tracing commences.
- Close liaison between AISZ and the family begins.
- Broader communication to the Community.
- All epidemiological recommendations followed and implemented in order to bring the students back to school.

Positive Student Scenario

If we have a positive case in school,

- The student would be immediately isolated - it is extremely unlikely a student would be at school whilst awaiting a COVID-19 test result, so we will most probably learn about this from home while the student is absent..
- The school programs would move to VLP while a deep clean of the campus takes place. This could be up to two days. This could be a whole school closure and clean or a separate divisional one focusing on Upper School or Lower School. Each case would be evaluated on an individual basis.
- All students and staff return to the current program once cleaning has been completed (1 or 2 days) EXCEPT the affected grade level and staff. These students would follow *VLP* for a period of **two weeks** or following epidemiological advice.
- All epidemiological recommendations would be followed and implemented in order to bring the students back to school.

Total Virtual Learning Program Implemented Schoolwide

We should all be prepared for the shift at some point to VLP. We are hoping this will not happen, but we need to be ready in case it does. I recommend you plan your own contingencies in case we have to move into a full VLP mode.

The current situation is being monitored continually and we are remaining in contact with the Regional Health Professionals who have supplied us with good advice so far.

A total move to VLP could arise from the following scenarios:

- The increasing numbers of positive cases continues to grow, challenging the protocols we have in place which compel a move to total VLP - this is difficult to put a certain number on but we are in constant communication with the authorities.
- A significant number of students are in isolation which means delivery is diminished and Face to Face learning is not possible *in conjunction with* a VLP model for those isolated.
- A wide range of positive cases across the school make cohort separation impossible.

Contacting the School

In order to help keep our communications smooth, if your child needs to be isolated for a COVID-19 related issue, please ensure you include our school doctor in your communications.

Virtual Community Meeting Monday 18:30

The AISZ Crisis Response Team will meet tomorrow to further assess our situation. We have built our systems to be as sustainable as we can by keeping distance, hygiene and mask wearing but we need to continually review what we do.

I will also host a **Community Meeting on Monday evening at 18:30**. I was going to announce a meeting in the Bear Print tomorrow for later in the week but I would like to bring it forward in light of the current situation. I apologize for the short notice. Mrs. Lukic will sent out a zoom link tomorrow in an update and in the Bear Print.

The current situation is being monitored continually and we are remaining in contact with the Regional Health Professionals who have supplied us with good advice so far.

We are hoping our systems will provide the capacity for continued Face to Face learning as long as possible, but plans have to be made to address different scenarios. I do want to acknowledge those families in isolation and thank them for the rapid and honest information sharing and partnership which has allowed us to effectively plan.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Buckley