

AICS COVID-19 protocol for both the primary and secondary school In place from 1 December 2021

Dear AICS Community,

On 26 November 2021 the Dutch Government announced additional changes to the COVID-19 restrictions. We have revised the AICS COVID-19 protocols to reflect these changes and advice. This document replaces all previous AICS COVID-19 protocols and FAQs.

National Corona Guidelines for Education

As a Dutch International School we fall under the jurisdiction of the Dutch National Government, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the City Health Authority (GGD), the Municipality of Amsterdam and the National Educational Councils for Primary and Secondary Education. As such, we follow the guidelines of these authorities. We outline below what changes will take place.

Protocols in primary education

- Should a child test positive then classmates of an infected child can all go to school. An exception may apply to children who have been in close contact privately (for example, if they have played at the home of the student who tested positive for COVID-19); we would seek advice on this provided by the GGD for every individual situation.
- During lesson time, we minimise contact between primary classes, however, we are not fully introducing class bubbles in order to make language learning possible for students at their appropriate level.

Protocols in Secondary education

- Students are expected to go home immediately after their last lesson unless they are attending a Lyceo support session.
- Classrooms will be kept unlocked to avoid students congregating in the corridors before the start of a lesson.

Additional protocols for primary and secondary education

- All adults keep 1.5 metres distance from each other and from all secondary students.
- All adults and students in Group 6 and above are expected to wear face masks when moving through the building.
- At the South campus, the central staircase will be used for going up and the two side staircases for going down. The one-way system in the corridors will not return fully at this time. Secondary (and upper primary) students will be asked not to wait in groups in shared spaces like the quiet study areas. Weather permitting, they should go outside. There are no changes to the walking routes in South East and the Satellite campuses.
- Celebrations take place without external attendees.
- Celebrations can take place with internal staff providing we can keep the 1.5m distance rule.
- If a child has tested positive, the child will remain at home in isolation. The child can return to school if symptom-free for at least 24 hours and seven days have passed since the symptoms started or the infection was established.
- Quarantine rules have been tightened. When someone tests positive (even with a self-test), the rest of the household needs to quarantine and get a GGD PCR test immediately and then follow the GGD advice.

- If a student is not deemed a close contact of a positively tested student they are expected to be at school. If they are absent, this will be marked as unauthorised absence.
- Anyone with COVID-19-like symptoms stays at home and gets tested through the GGD. The whole family goes into quarantine if someone from the household tests positive. If you have had close contact with someone who tests positive, you go into the advised quarantine.
- Any students with cold-like symptoms, like a runny nose, will be sent home. That decision lies with the Head of Campus. Siblings without any cold-like symptoms may continue education at school.

Safety and Hygiene

- Basic hygiene rules still apply and are encouraged (e.g. handwashing, thorough cleaning at the end of the day).
- Additional cleaning materials, including hand soap, placed throughout the buildings and in the classrooms.
- Extra cleaning during and after the school day.
- Self-test kits are available free of charge at each reception.

Ventilation in our school buildings

All of our campuses have systems that meet the ventilation safety requirements. This means that there is no recirculation of air in any of our buildings. However, the advice is that we open windows and air rooms regularly as a standard procedure. Fresh air from the outside is the most direct way of replacing the air in a room.

The School Community

Parents

- Parents do not enter the building unless they are supporting educational processes such as volunteering, workshops, exhibitions, trips, other school related events. We kindly request them to wear face masks.
- Appointments with a teacher/mentor will now take place online.
- As part of the introduction and admissions process, parents of new students are welcome to view our school on a video tour.
- Parents may not come into the building in the morning at drop off or pick up. For agreements regarding entry & exit times for specific campuses please see below.

Entry & Exit

Parents will no longer be able to come into school during pick-up or drop-off anymore. Pick-up points are as follows per campus:

Start and end times remain the same for Primary as listed below:

- **South (Main):** Entry Group 2 to 7 8:15- 8:25 & Group 1 8:25-8:40; Exit classroom 15:15 (Wed 12:00)
Teachers will use the following exit points:
Group 1 & 4 - use the back stairs by Partou
Group 2 - through reception
Groups 3, 5, 6 & 7 - use the back stairs down to the fire exit
- **Satellite:** Entry 8:15-8:25 - all groups; Exit classroom 15:15 (Wed 12:00)

All classes with external exits (Groups 4K, 4L, 5L at the front and Groups 3K, 5K, 7L by the canal) need to be collected from these exits. For groups 1K and 2K, 6K, 6L and 7K the students will be collected from the playground.

- **South East:** Entry 8:35-8:45 - all groups; Exit classroom 15:30 (Wed 12:30)
All students will need to be collected on the playground every day.

For Secondary

- No change.

Staff

- Staff work at home unless they are timetabled to teach or are otherwise required to be at school in the interests of pupils.
- Teachers are expected to go home immediately after their last scheduled lesson.
- Team meetings and study days will take place online.
- Staff rooms and workrooms will have limited seating capacity adhering to the 1.5m distance ruling.
- If staff develop COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are vaccinated they need to get tested **via the GGD**. If they are negative they can come back to school directly. If positive, the staff member can return to school once symptom-free for at least 24 hours and seven days have passed since the symptoms started or the infection was established.

For staff who are **not** considered to be 'immune', the advice is to do a self-test twice a week.

Educational Programme

- Onsite parent events are postponed. Events involving parents will take place online.
- Educational activities/events will be considered per activity with the aim to support the educational process, but will only include staff and students.

Entering the Netherlands from abroad

If you are travelling abroad check [this](#) government approved website. Please be reminded that the school is not able to approve extraordinary leave for additional holidays. The AICS acknowledges the fact that its international community has a need to travel home and has therefore agreed to a 3 week winter break as well as a 2 week May break for our families in order to give them more opportunity to reconnect with family abroad.

Testing and quarantine

For more information about the guidelines on testing and quarantine in English see:

[Government website](#)

[RIVM website](#)