

## Return to school post Covid 19 shutdown - brainstorming session

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### Meeting Schedule:

Zoom meeting - this meeting was not recorded

Tuesday 14th April at 10.00 CET

Facilitators: Renee McCormack, American International School, Vienna (AISV) and Cynthia Kemish, International School of Zug and Luzern (ISZL)

Link to attendees: [Attendees list](#)

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### Shared documents:

This document will be shared with the [School Nurse Information Sharing@iszl.org](mailto:SchoolNurseInformationSharing@iszl.org) google group.

Flow chart to help parents decide if their child should come to school [ISZL flow charts](#)

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### A. CHECK-IN, Use Chat Box to Google Hangout to respond to check-in questions.

How well do you think your school has handled the situation to this date: 1-10 - Score of 1 is very bad up to a score of 10 where everything has been perfect.

**Results:** 35% felt schools had handled it very well. 52% above average and 13% selected okay but could do better

### B. INTRODUCTION

- Rules of meeting
- Time to introduce ourselves to the group

**C. KEY ISSUES: This is a document created to share the questions schools should be asking. The answers will depend on your own country, departments of health and education, school administrators**

Key issues	Ideas and suggestions
<b>Communication</b> Prior to return to Teachers/staff	<b>Teachers/staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reminder of sick policy, reinforce hand and cough hygiene.</li><li>• Nurses office is a high risk area, teachers should attempt to resolve student complaints with interventions before sending to nurse<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Question: do teachers need extra supplies?</li></ul></li></ul>

<p>Prior to return to parents</p> <p>Prior to return to students</p>	<p><b>Parents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reminder of sick policy, reinforce hand and cough hygiene:parents to teach &amp; monitor effective hand washing technique.</li> <li>● Parents to brief their children that mask-wearing*, gloves*, hand washing etc is encouraged (not all schools will require this). Or that they may see staff with masks on - eg. nurses</li> <li>● Education on how to wear masks if required.</li> <li>● Nurses' offices are a high risk area and parents should talk to students about only going to nurses' offices if they really need to.</li> <li>● Reinforce that caregivers should alert the school if someone in their home has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and keep their child at home.</li> <li>● Do we create a new level of the matrix for the return to school so parents can see what the school is doing</li> </ul> <p><b>Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reinforce hand and cough hygiene</li> </ul>
<p>Sick Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fever free 48 hours / one school 72 hours as parents were not respecting the time.</li> <li>● Children/staff with infectious symptoms can only return after 48 hours symptom free. UNLESS medical documentation proving illness is not due to acute infection.</li> <li>● Clearance forms to get information about family during shutdown period - have they had the virus?</li> <li>● Flow chart to help parents decide if their child should come to school (sample of ISZL in shared documents)</li> <li>● Possible fine/other consequences for repeat offenders - sick policy has not been adhered to.</li> <li>● Mandate that parents need to be available to pick up their child within a time frame if they are sick</li> <li>● Dictate temp (38, 37.8 with symptoms) Some schools use 37.5 or symptoms only.</li> <li>● Do we send children home with respiratory symptoms but no fever?</li> <li>● If a child is unwell and they are sent home with corona-like symptoms do we require them to self isolate for 5, 10, 14 days? - guided by the government.</li> <li>● At this time it is difficult to get tested in some countries, do students need to give medical notes from the lab with a negative test result?</li> <li>● Might we get rapid tests available in the nurse's office?</li> <li>● Boarding schools - difficult balance between sick child and the school setting</li> <li>● Policy change ? lower temp ?symptoms only enough to send a child home. Eg. cold symptoms.</li> <li>● Boarding school - teachers checking students' temps and sending them on to nurse if elevated.</li> </ul>
<p>Keeping well in school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hand washing on arrival in school. In addition to before and after eating, toileting, after playing. Staff to facilitate this and keep the subject alive / fun for students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use videos for teachers to use to promote the hand washing. Sample of video here <a href="#">Handwashing video - Youtube</a> Other good example found on <a href="https://jr.brainpop.com">https://jr.brainpop.com</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Supply glitter to make fun lesson for hand washing?
- Do we have enough sanitizer? Is it possible to get supplies?
  - If we are not able to buy more - inform parents - keep them updated with current situation.
  - Similar with other safety equipment / inform parents of the true situation to allow them to make informed choices.
  - Check the sanitizer you have actually kills the virus - over 70% alcohol.
  - In ICU - once sanitizer used, you would normally wash hands with soap and water to wash off residue.
  - Soap and water still the best.
  - Research shows that cold water is as effective as warm (but not so nice)
- Do we ask teachers to have class wash their hands on the hour every hour? Seems a good step for the whole school - would need supplies/inform parents
- Number of students allowed in the nurse's office at one time.
- Distance in the nurse's office
- Isolation/quarantine room available if have a sick child. Should not be sitting in nurses office or at reception whilst waiting to be collected. - do we have masks available for sick children/staff and ask them to put them on?
- Consider all means of virus transmission - droplet, surfaces, talking
- Masks or not?
  - Nurses to wear masks - inform students / Parents
  - With the shortage - are schools expected to provide to students?
  - If parents send students in with a mask - what is the role of the school. Are we expected to monitor that they wear it.
  - Education on how to put on / off the masks - correct use
  - Will masks encourage younger students to touch their face
  - High risk staff or staff who come in contact with many students (eg food service) to wear masks? What type (FFP2 ), do they know the correct use of masks - need to educate
  - Nurses - need to change masks between students.
  - Use of face shields. One school had the 3D printer print off plastic face shields for staff.
  - Sample on facebook on how to make face shield from plastic folder - link here [facebook link to making faceshield](#)
- Extra nurse hours to meet higher level of need.
- Touchless thermometers - how appropriate, several nurses commented that they found they were not accurate in their experience.
- Nurses office high risk area - encourage teachers to deal with issues in class if possible.

Returning to school

- Do you have compulsory temperature checks at school gate
- Is there a point to temp checks when we believe that 25% of the population have no symptoms and can take

	<p>upto 48hours - 6 days for symptoms to appear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Returning children who have been sick need to check in at the nurses office prior to going to class for temp and symptom check.</li> <li>● Signage up around school as reminders</li> <li>● Keeping log of those children off sick and then when they return to school</li> <li>● One school uses isams and they were able to put a restriction on a child's name so when taking class registration after they returned after being sick, the teacher could not mark them in school until they had been to the nurses for health check</li> <li>● When can a child return to school if they have cold symptoms / covid symptoms etc. Each government is likely to have its own criteria. Anywhere from 48 fever free to 14 days isolation.</li> <li>● Some schools required children saw a doctor prior to returning to school</li> <li>● Do you ask parents to check their child's temperature before coming to school every day? One school did this and parents had to write it down on a slip of paper, send it to school with the child. Teacher collected the slips and if a child did not have it they were required to be tested in school. Teachers' aides were trained on how to take a temperature. Chaotic first week but parents and students quickly learnt new way.</li> <li>● Boarding school - each `house`tested students prior to leaving for class.</li> <li>● Do we ask parents if they have been travelling ? Is there a need for this when the virus is worldwide now.</li> <li>● Document shared that a dentist is using to question people on travel / determine risk <a href="#">Dental document</a></li> <li>● Will there be a requirement of parents to inform if the family has had contact with a known case of covid?</li> <li>● Boarding school - is there an expectation to have a clear test prior to returning to school? Who pays for this?</li> </ul>
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classroom equipment (colouring sets, computers, learning materials) assigned to one student at a time.</li> <li>● Grade level only assemblies / no assemblies</li> <li>● PE - adapted to avoid group contact sports - ideally outside when possible to limit exposure</li> <li>● Restrict cross campus PE facilities use</li> <li>● Science room - sharing of equipment/safety goggles etc.</li> <li>● Think about changing rooms. Can be small and crowded</li> <li>● Parent / teacher conference to take place in virtual setting</li> <li>● Distance between desks/students. Classroom set up</li> <li>● Minimise group learning activities / mixing of classroom</li> <li>● Stairwells and toilets should be assigned to classrooms nearest to them - try to minimize inter student contact.</li> <li>● Teachers not to use students to collect items etc from outside of the classroom</li> <li>● Break times staggered and assigned classes to remain in one area if possible</li> <li>● After school clubs- cancel as students mix from all grades / classes</li> <li>● Music teachers - wind instruments</li> <li>● Windows open if possible</li> <li>● Sleeping arrangements in the classes where students rest - distance between beds.</li> <li>● Room size, are there some very small rooms being used - possible to move to larger rooms to enable social</li> </ul>

	<p>distancing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Governments / education departments are likely to have their own guidelines on required social distancing in school settings.</li> </ul>
Lunch room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Salad Bar and Fruit basket have staff serving children / preserved bowls of salad/fruit</li> <li>● Tape on the floor to indicate as to where students should wait</li> <li>● Do we just ask for packed lunches to be eaten in the classroom.</li> <li>● Minimal handling of trays, silverware etc</li> <li>● Lunches to be staggered to minimize crowds</li> <li>● Classroom seating to keep groups of students together</li> <li>● Barricades erected to control movement of student</li> <li>● Cleaning of tables in between the extra sittings?</li> </ul>
Pick up and drop off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School buses? to use or not use</li> <li>● Can we keep the bus drivers safe (tend to be older men at ISZL)</li> <li>● Allow extra time / or dictate time for drop off and pick up to help with social distancing.</li> <li>● Parents of EL (EY - grade 1) allowed students into the building. No other parents allowed in.</li> <li>● No social gatherings at drop off / pick up</li> <li>● Use different entrances for pick-up/drop off with staggered time</li> <li>● Public transport - crowded buses if everyone arrives at the same time. Talk to bus services.</li> <li>● Staggering the beginning and end of the school day</li> <li>● No option to stay at school at the end of the day, even if warmer weather</li> </ul>
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extra cleaning during the school day to high touch areas - banisters, toilets, taps, door handles etc.</li> <li>● Ensure cleaning staff are safe - do they have the protection they need</li> <li>● Is the right product being used to clean</li> <li>● Bins emptied during the day.</li> <li>● Deep clean prior to return (is there any point if the schools have been shut for 30+ days)</li> <li>● Computer cleaning / shared IT items.</li> </ul>
Mental well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Counsellors to advise on best approach in looking after the mental well being of the community</li> <li>● Fun times to be had in school</li> <li>● Routine can help students (feels like normal). Disrupting the normal school day - extra stressor</li> <li>● Need to alert teachers to be aware of any signs of stress/self harm/issues from home.</li> <li>● Supporting students where they have lost family members</li> </ul>

Child protection issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We know that during isolation domestic violence is increased. Teachers are alerted to this and encourage staff to report to CPO any concerns.</li> </ul>
Students/staff not returning to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some parents may choose to keep their child off school because they are high risk, or they are just concerned. Will online learning continue for this cohort of students.</li> <li>● For this cohort, can one teacher in each grades role be support students allowing others to teach as normal</li> <li>● How do we support our vulnerable students/staff/parents</li> </ul>
Non teaching staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To work from home if possible</li> <li>● Distances between desks in offices</li> <li>● Marks on the floor to space out the reception desk - prevent parents getting too close.</li> <li>● Limit number of parents in the front office - request for parents to email rather than visit</li> <li>● Share out office spaces for those who must be at work</li> <li>● Admissions - are visitors allowed on the campus?</li> <li>● Those in similar jobs, do they work one week on and one week at home to try and prevent spread and keep the roles going (ie IT department)</li> <li>● Meetings - keep the numbers down - virtual staff meetings? Meetings within grades?</li> <li>● Stop cross campus traffic, staff to stick to one campus if at all possible.</li> <li>● Library? Sharing of books? Stop browsing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In Hong Kong they have a seperate box where the books are dropped and then it is kept locked for 14 days. Still risk of browsing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Supplies -hand sanitizer, masks for nurses. Are they available</li> <li>● Key staff that met a large number of students/staff daily - do we check their health /temperature daily. For example kitchen staff. Do we ask if they can check their temps at home each day prior to coming into work.</li> <li>● Restrict access to school buildings from outside organisations</li> <li>● Swimming?</li> </ul>
School Doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consider meeting with school doctor to have medical `view`on plans</li> </ul>
Other notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As we do not know what each country will expect from schools - have a team looking at different scenarios in preparation.</li> <li>● Staggered opening for students - different grades over the coming weeks</li> <li>● Staggered school day as well so not to have the whole school arrive at the same time.</li> </ul>

Denmark - schools opening on 15.04.2020  
Information taken from newspaper reports  
on 15.04.2020.

- Opened first 5 grades, teachers given one day for preparation
- However, health minister conceded that some schools may need more time. Only can open when rules can be applied in the school setting
- Not to bring toys from home
- Children to wash hands thoroughly before arriving on premises
- Pick up and drop off guidelines - encouraged to be on time to reduce risk of crowding.
- Teachers will bring students out to parents at the end of day.
- Avoid physical contact with staff or children who are not your own and try to maintain distance from others of 2 meters
- No guidelines for children on social distancing, all guidelines aimed at adults.
- Children will be made to play in smaller groups
- Desks to be kept 2 metres apart - breaks organised for small groups
- More outdoor lessons.
- Wash hands frequently
- Extra staff employed to make sure things can be run in a safe way.
- children with "even mild symptoms like colds" should stay home until at least 48 hours until the symptoms have ceased. If this happens, you should inform staff at the school or daycare.
- If your child belongs to a risk group, suffering from diabetes, obesity, a blood disease, or if they have had a transplant operation, or are being given drugs that suppress their immune system, you should discuss whether it is safe to return to school or kindergarten with their doctor, and if it is, you should work with teaching staff to draw up a plan.
- Even if a member of a child's household is within a special risk group, the child can still return to school.
- Q: What if someone else in the household is sick with coronavirus-like symptoms?  
According to the Danish Health Authority, you can send a child to school or kindergarten even if a parent or sibling is sick, although of course the sick parent cannot fetch or deliver them.

#### **D. Exit,**

**Use Chat Box to state how prepared you feel in knowing what you need to do in your school prior to the opening of your school**

Score of 1 is not prepared up to a score of 10 where you feel in control and know what you need to do.

Results: **9,8,6,10,6,7,8,5,6,7,7,9,7,6.5,7,8,7,7, 7,6,6.5,6, 5**

Thank you to all for taking part. We will arrange a second meeting in approx 10 days time. In the meantime if you have any questions remember to use the google group. If you are not a member, please email [cynthia.kemish@iszl.ch](mailto:cynthia.kemish@iszl.ch) and I can add you as a member to the group.

A couple of small points

1. Please can you take the time to email / share your sickness policy with Diana so she can share them with her administrators. Maybe if they see standard practice in other international schools they may consider implementing and supporting their nurses (email address - [dianafrancespadaccini@gmail.com](mailto:dianafrancespadaccini@gmail.com))
2. Sinju and Joyce asked about a facebook group. There is one called School nurses, chit-chat and expertise that I am a member of. This appears to be UK based, but there are some relevant questions that come up. If you know of any others, please let me know directly and I can share with the group.
3. Nikola - you asked about who else was working in boarding schools - This was Marie-Claude and her email address is on the list of attendees so do contact her directly.

Good luck to the schools returning this week or next, we will be thinking of you all and hoping that all goes well for your return.