

## **AICS COVID-19 protocol for both the primary and secondary school**

**In place from 11th January 2022**

Dear AICS Community,

On 3 January 2022 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 (partly state-funded) we fall under the jurisdiction of the Dutch National Government and therefore follow the health advice of 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. Below are the updated guidelines.

For both primary and secondary education the protocols are aligned as follows:

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/publicaties/2022/01/03/coronaregels-in-het-primair-en-voortgezet-onderwijs-vanaf-10-januari>

- All students can attend school.
- Staff members keep (when possible) 1,5 meter distance from each other.
- Students do not have to keep 1,5 meter distance from each other or from staff members.
- All staff members, volunteers and students from group 6 and older are advised to self test twice a week.
- Students and staff members with symptoms stay at home and get tested through the city health authority (GGD) or they take a self test. If the test is negative, the person may return to school. If a person has a positive self-test, they have to get a pcr test and follow the ggd advice for quarantine.
- Students are advised to travel to and from school unaccompanied when possible.
- Classes are being kept separate where possible during the school day.
- Breaks are spread through the day when possible.
- Walking routes (staircases) through the buildings are indicated.
- Staff members that are not needed for (or to support) lessons work from home.
- Meetings take place online as much as possible.
- Parents and guardians do not enter school, unless there is no other way (emergencies).
- All adults as well as students from group 6 and above wear a face mask when moving through the building.
- When seated the face mask can be removed.

### *Protocols in primary education*

- Should a primary student test positive then the classmates of the infected student 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.
- All adults and students in Group 6 and above are expected to wear face masks when moving through the building.
- 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 on our campuses.
- Celebrations within classes take place without external attendees.
- Celebrations can take place with internal staff providing we can keep the 1.5m distance rule and we minimise contact between classes.
- All adults and students are asked to test twice weekly. Self-test kits are available free of charge at each reception.
- 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.
- When someone tests positive (even with a self-test), the rest of the household needs to quarantine, contact the GGD 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 and the school has to report it to the Dutch "leerplicht" (truancy).
- Any students with cold-like symptoms, like a runny nose, will be sent home. That decision lies with the Head of Campus. We advise that the child has a self-test. If the self-test is positive then the child is advised to get a GGD test. If the self-test is negative, the student may return to school. 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 and encourage them to do self-tests twice a week or before entering the school to lead a workshop.
- Appointments with a teacher/mentor take place online as much as possible.
- 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.
- If your child is in quarantine then they may not attend after-school care activities.

### Entry & Exit

Parents will no longer be able to come into school during pick-up or drop-off anymore. Students are advised to travel to and from school unaccompanied when possible.

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, 3 and 5 - picked up from their classroom doors that open into playground  
Group 2 - picked up from the Group 1 and 2 playground  
Group 4 - picked up from the Group 3 and 4 playground  
Group 6 and 7 - picked up from the 5, 6 and 7 playground  
For your convenience, we add the [layout of the playgrounds](#) for the new building.
- **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 the educational or administrative processes.
- Teachers are asked to go home after they have completed their work.
- Team meetings and study days will take place online.
- Staff rooms and workrooms will indicate a limited seating capacity on the door, adhering to the 1.5m distance ruling.
- If staff develop COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are vaccinated, they do a self-test or get tested via the GGD. If they are negative (also with a self-test) they can resume teaching directly. If the staff member has a positive self-test, they go home and have to get a pcr test with the GGD. 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.

### 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](#)