

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. 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 regulations of the national authorities, which are 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 most updated guidelines.

For both primary and secondary education the protocols are 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 higher please administer COVID-19 self tests twice a week.
- Students and staff members with symptoms stay at home and please self-test and/or be tested by an authorised PCR testing agency. If the test result is negative, please return to school. If positive, then by law please confirm the result with an authorized PCR testing agency and quarantine for the legally mandated period of days.
- Students are to travel to and from school unaccompanied as much as possible.
- Classes are being kept separate where possible during the school day.
- Breaks are spread throughout the day when possible.
- 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 authorised to provide a designated function.
- All adults as well as students from group 6 and higher wear a face mask when moving through the building.
- When seated the face mask can be removed.

Protocols in primary education

- A confirmed positive student does not prevent classmates from attending school. If later on classmates tests positive, please follow the testing instructions described above.
- During lesson time, minimal contact between classes will be the objective. Class bubbles will not be introduced at this time 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

- 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.
- 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 in designated areas throughout the school and at the Welcome Desk on the ground floor of each campus.

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 given permission to support educational processes when absolutely necessary.
- Please wear face masks and do self-tests twice a week before entering the school.
- 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](#)