

## Corona Virus Strategy at AIS-Salzburg

### **Ampelsystem - 'Traffic Light System'** **2020-2021: Toward a Safe, Quality Education**

*Updated: September 14, 2020*

The Austrian government and health officials have created a 'traffic light' system to communicate the present, up-to-date, level of health threat for each of the political districts of Austria. The level of threat to the general public is indicated symbolically by the color on the street light panel.



<b>Green</b>	= Low level of threat at present conditions
<b>Yellow</b>	= Increased level of threat at present conditions
<b>Orange</b>	= Significant level of threat at present conditions
<b>Red</b>	= Dangerous level of threat at present conditions

The city of Salzburg is an individual district which will have its own regularly-updated threat indicator (*Ampel*) as of early September. The criteria utilized by the health experts to determine the level of threat will include numbers of positive infections in recent days within the total population as well as a broad range of other factors (e.g., numbers of hospital beds and doctors) in a very complex calculation. Given Austria's excellent handling of the first outbreak last spring, we are very confident that these new measures will be adequate and very reliable.

The American International School-Salzburg will utilize this system as a basis of expertise to determine what actions, restrictions and policies will be in place at any given time during the 2020-2021 school year. Needless to say, as the situation becomes increasingly dangerous (from green upward to yellow, orange, or red), more and more restrictions on freedom of movement, in social distancing requirements and school events and activities adjustments will be put into effect—the opposite, as the level of threat declines. In this way, the school administration hopes to maintain the highest level of responsible, prudent care for our students and staff. This will *not* be a school year like others in the past and it is the responsibility of all members of our community to understand and help support these requirements.

#### **A. Austrian national restrictions in place by the government and health officials - Present Situation:**

1. Masks must be utilized to cover the nose and mouth of all persons:
  - a. on public transport (buses, trains, subways, taxis, etc.),
  - b. in health facilities including doctors' offices, hospitals and pharmacies,
  - c. in all stores, restaurants and other businesses,
  - d. in all changing rooms in physical exercise facilities
  - d. in all school halls and entrance areas (not in classrooms or on grounds outdoors)
  - e. and anywhere large groups of people are in close, restricted space (incl. outdoors)
2. Social distance of 1.5 meters must be maintained with all others who are not of the same household (all of our resident students are considered a household legally); large crowds of people are to be avoided completely.
3. Outdoor meetings may include no more than 100 persons; indoors 50.

*The government is presently very concerned about the high number of positive tests nationwide, especially in Vienna, Graz, Innsbruck and Tirol in general. With Austrian schools opening their doors this week, they want to ensure that people are being safe and have, therefore, increased the restrictions. Please note that these requirements are above and beyond the government's 'traffic light' requirements, which are intended to address local outbreaks. This does affect our school policies. Please see the specific information below:*

## **B. General Policies and restrictions in place at AIS-Salzburg:**

### **Personal Health and Habits**

1. The body temperature of all non-resident students and staff will be read frequently before that start of instruction each morning. Five-day boarders and full-boarders will have their temperature read upon return to the school following longer periods of absence (e.g., check-outs, weekends at home for 5-day boarders, sports events, etc.) or following illness.
2. Students and staff members will be often reminded to:
  - wash and disinfect their hands
  - cover their mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing
  - not raise their voices in public to sing loudly, scream or speak loudly
3. Liquid soap, hand disinfectant and surface disinfectant cleaner will be distributed and available in all classrooms and on the dormitory floors.
4. All students, both resident and non-resident, are required to have a mask with them and available for use whenever required. Students may voluntarily wear masks or face shields in classrooms or on the dormitory floors if desired.
5. All students and staff must undergo COVID-19 testing whenever requested to do so.
6. Students who are ill are to be isolated in infirmaries or at home, seek the medical attention of local physicians and adhere to any and all medicinal or therapeutic orders from those physicians. Non-resident students who are ill are not allowed back on campus or in classes until such participation is approved by a physician in writing and masking is required through the remainder of the academic week. Boarding students who miss classes due to illness will be isolated and not return to classes until approved by a physician in writing and masking will then be required through the remainder of the academic week. Coursework awareness can be maintained through the Google Classroom® platform which should be checked regularly if a student is unable to attend classes.
7. Vaccinations against this season's predicted influenza mutation are highly recommended for all members of our community. We have been told that this vaccine will be available as of October, 2020.
8. The school will actively promote awareness and provide information frequently concerning the ongoing health threats and our responses or reactions to this.

### **Instruction and Dormitory Life**

9. The school will carry out any and all disinfecting, cleaning, ventilation and monitoring of hygiene standards as required by the health authorities (See document: Corona and Boarding Schools) in the classrooms and dormitories.
10. Non-resident students are allowed on campus from 08:30 until 16:00 on weekdays (M-F). Presence beyond these hours, can be approved for participation in elective courses, tutorials, activities, ski trips, etc.
11. Seating in classrooms, dining rooms and dormitories will be adjusted to try and ensure that proper social distancing is possible. All teachers and staff members are requested to maintain an appropriate physical distance (1.5m) from students at all times during instruction or, if not possible, to wear a mask. Non-resident students will be seated in the front of classrooms at single tables when possible; boarding students will be seated behind them. All instructors will establish assigned seating arrangements for all students. At times and regardless of the traffic light color, instructors may request that masks be worn given the method chosen for instruction.
12. Instruction—especially for physical education—will be held outdoors whenever feasible.
13. The number of students living in a particular dormitory room should not exceed 2 persons. All non-resident staff and students are prohibited from entering the dormitory facilities.
14. Virtual or digital instruction will be carried out by all instructors at that time in which the government health officials or the school administration determine that we cannot hold face-to-face instruction in the classrooms given the increasing health risk to our community. Full digital instruction is not available through the Google Classroom® platform until that time although the instructors will use this program to inform all students on a regular basis of all assignments, upcoming evaluations, readings, etc., (i.e., similar to a virtual agenda book).

### **Campus**

15. The school campus will remain closed during academic, instructional days, Monday through Friday. This includes during breaks and the lunch periods. Departures off campus are not allowed during the academic day unless accompanied by a school staff member. All visitors, deliveries and other third-parties on the school campus will be tested for body temperature and their presence recorded in a protocol. Day students are requested not to be on campus after 16:00 or during weekend hours unless participating in a scheduled elective, activity or event as prearranged with the Dean of Students, Athletic Director or other administrator.

### **Meals**

16. Non-resident students are entitled to take lunch at the school on all instructional days. They may, of course, take a hot beverage or snack from the kitchen before classes begin in the morning if they wish, but the dining rooms are reserved for boarding students during breakfast. At lunch, non-resident students and staff will dine in Dining Room 1 or outdoors and all resident students and staff will dine in Dining Room 2 or outdoors. Proper ventilation of the dining rooms as well as cleaning and disinfecting will be carried out by the school staff.
17. The school's kitchen staff is fully compliant with all measures and requirements presently in place to ensure appropriate hygiene standards are met.

### Free Time

18. Weekend check-outs by resident students will be allowed only to their parents personally and only under acceptable conditions as defined by the level of threat announced by the experts. (see below). University visits during the school year will not be approved and will need to be undertaken during vacation periods or on a virtual basis.
19. Independent, free time off campus for resident students will be dependent upon the present level of health threat as indicated by the Corona Traffic Light system. At level Green, independent free-time off campus will be limited to two hours on weekdays (M-Th) and four hours per day on weekends (F, Sa, Su). At Yellow, only specific locations will be declared allowable destinations for both weekdays and weekends. Independent, free-time off campus at health risk level Orange is not permitted. Adjustments to these hours may be made by the administration at any time.
20. Resident students are not allowed to be hosted by non-resident student families unless particular circumstances require an exception be made (e.g., a resident student who is unable to return home during a vacation period).

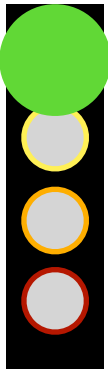
### General/Other

21. All students and staff must have the Red Cross' *Stop Corona* App downloaded on their personal communication devices and prove this when asked to do so. Devices loaded with this application must be with students at all times when away from the school campus. Information: <https://www.rotekreuz.at/site/meet-the-stop-corona-app/>
22. All students or staff members who are at higher health risk because of particular health problems, may be restricted from participating in classes and instruction if the health situation warrants this following discussion with health experts and following their professional advice.
23. Students who are not enrolled in the school may not register for and sit standardized tests at AIS-Salzburg.

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### Green 'Traffic Light'

*'Low level of threat at present conditions'*



Aside from the general guidelines listed above:

#### A. For all AIS-Salzburg Students:

1. Mouth and nose masking is required for all community members between 09:00 and 16:00 on academic days (M-F) except in classrooms, dining areas, outdoors or in dormitory rooms.
2. Physical education and sports team practices or competitions will occur as planned with proper respect for distancing from others at the same facilities as well as masking during transport, when in public areas of changing rooms at the PE facilities or when considered necessary by the instructor or coach
3. Social distancing requirements may be put in place whenever larger groupings of students and staff are probable (lunch/buffet line, assemblies, floor meetings, etc.).
4. Hand disinfecting is required before and after meals and several times a day.
5. During time away from the school, it is expected that all staff and students adhere to any and all health requirements established by the government and health officials.
6. All students and staff have the Austrian Red Cross *Stopp Corona* App downloaded on their personal phones that they carry with them.

#### B. Specifically for Resident Students:

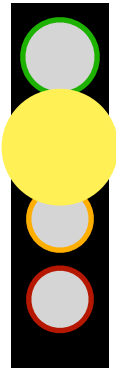
1. Independent free-time off campus occurs only with (a) proof of having downloaded the Red Cross, *Stop Corona* App and having the personal device upon which it is loaded with the student at all times, and (b) submission of specific locations to be visited when off campus which are approved by the staff.
2. Weekend check-outs to parents (only) can be approved and undertaken within guidelines; 5-day boarders may return home directly after classes on Fridays.
3. Food deliveries may be ordered as per handbook guidelines although all those delivering such items must remain outside and not enter any facilities.

#### C. Specifically for Non-Resident students:

1. Non-resident students may participate in any school activities, excursions or athletics events scheduled outside of the academic day with prior information or registration.
  2. Non-Resident students are to depart the school campus by 16:00 unless enrolled in a scheduled elective course, team practice or scheduled meeting. After departure from the school and campus, non-resident students are not allowed to return until the next morning or after the weekend unless for a scheduled commitment or event.
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## Yellow 'Traffic Light'

*'Increased level of threat at present conditions'*



Aside from the general guidelines listed above:

### A. For All AIS-Salzburg Students:

1. Mouth and nose masking is required for all community members between 09:00 and 16:00 on academic days (M-F) except in classrooms, dining areas or dormitory rooms including outdoor areas.
2. Social distancing requirements will be increased where and when possible during the academic day to eliminate group gatherings and or overcrowding of facilities with limited space.
3. Physical education and sports teams practices will continue under strict guidelines (masking and distancing from third-parties while at the Rif Sports Center or other facilities). Athletic competitions may be cancelled or postponed depending upon location and level of health threat situation there.
4. Resident students and staff interaction with non-resident students and staff should be of a more cautious nature.

### B. Specifically for Resident Students:

1. Independent free-time off campus is restricted to two hours during weekdays and may only include the following destinations:
  - a. 'Der Mache' bakery and deli (Moosstrasse 94)
  - b. the Billa grocery store (Moosstrasse 21)
  - c. physicians' offices and/or the pharmacy (Moosstrasse 15)
  - d. Raiffeisenbank (Moosstrasse 13)
  - e. other destinations with approval by an administrator
2. Independent free time off campus on weekends is restricted to four hours per day and to the locations previously mentioned (above) as well as the Salzburg city center. Indoor shopping centers such as Europark, the Arena, Forum 1 and the Salzburg Central Train Station are off limits during free time unless organized as a weekend activity with staff supervision.
3. Weekend check outs to parents (pick up only) if the destination is yellow or green only; 5-day boarders return home directly if the traffic light at their home district is yellow or green as well. No additional charges will be made for the residency of 5-day boarders staying the weekend in the school dormitories if necessary.
4. Food deliveries are not permitted except to the school kitchen.

### C. Specifically for Non-Resident Students:

1. Non-resident students may participate in any school activities, excursions or athletics events if the health situation allows as determined by the administration.
2. Non-Resident students are to depart the school campus by 16:00 unless enrolled in a scheduled elective course, team practice or scheduled meeting. After departure from the school and campus, non-resident students are not allowed to return until the next morning or after the weekend unless for a scheduled commitment or event.
3. Non-resident students and staff should maintain a high level of awareness of all health and hygiene requirements when away from the school campus and avoid any situations that may eventually endanger the school community as a whole.

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## Orange 'Traffic Light'

*'Significant level of threat at present conditions'*



Aside from the general guidelines listed above:

### A. For All AIS-Salzburg Students:

1. Mouth and nose masking required in all public areas except within classrooms, one's own dormitory room, and dining halls during meals on academic days. Masks must be utilized whenever non-residents are on campus.
2. Social distancing is required between residents and non-residents at all times.
3. Physical education courses are cancelled at the Rif Sports Center and may be supplanted with other physical activity outdoors and on or near campus. All sports team practices and competitions are postponed or cancelled.
4. Excursion plans are cancelled or postponed.
5. Instruction may take place on Saturdays in exchange for further days off after this level of health threat has subsided. Field trips and other outings organized by instructors are postponed or cancelled.

6. Body temperature measuring as well as COVID-19 testing will increase in frequency for all students and staff members.

B. *Specifically for Resident Students:*

1. Campus is closed; no free time off campus unless approved for health reasons or other reasons with approval by the administration.
2. Weekend activities are on campus.
3. Weekend check-outs to parents discontinued. 5-Day boarders must remain on campus on during weekends at no extra charge.

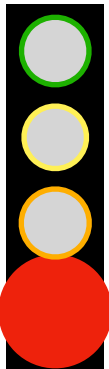
C. *Specifically for Non-Resident Students:*

1. Masks must be worn throughout the school day while on campus except in classrooms and dining areas. Extra care is to be taken to avoid close interaction with residents.
2. Non-resident students are to depart the school campus by 16:00 unless enrolled in a scheduled elective course.
3. Non-Resident students may not participate in weekend activities or other meetings outside of the regular academic-day schedule unless registered for a standardized test.
4. Non-resident students and staff should maintain a very high level of awareness of all health and hygiene requirements as well as health developments in Salzburg on a daily basis. Non-resident students and staff must avoid any situations that may eventually endanger the school community and immediately report any symptoms of illness or other health issues to officials or remain at home, informing the administration.

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**Red 'Traffic Light'**

*'Dangerous level of threat at present conditions'*



***The school will react to the determination that the city of Salzburg district is at the red level by discontinuing live coursework and send all full- and five-day boarders home, quarantining them until departure is possible. All coursework will continue online over the Google Classroom platform as soon as possible. The school's refund policy adjustments go into effect immediately. All non-resident staff and faculty continue their instruction and duties from home until such time that it is deemed safe for students to return and resume live, on-campus instruction and programming.***

***Further Commentary:***

It is essential that all members of our community consider our unique situation and the possible health threats to our school responsibly and cooperatively. Should a positive COVID-19 result occur within our community, it is quite likely that the school would be quarantined: all resident students and staff in the dormitories and all non-resident students and staff at home. Instruction would continue online only. Boarding students would not be allowed to return home during this period of quarantine and it is likely that the period of isolation would be significant. Unfortunately, we do not have 'classes' as in the Austrian school system that can be isolated without shutting down the school itself. Following such an event, therefore it is questionable as to whether or not the remainder of the school year and educational provision would be viable or worthy of the name college—preparatory.

We understand that the procedures listed above—depending upon the level of threat—are burdensome and restrictive of some aspects of boarding school life that are greatly enjoyed. We remain, however, committed to try and make decisions that balance the need for a proper, college-preparatory education with the current health threats that will likely be with us for some or most of the present school year. Rest assured that as soon as this threat is effectively ended and the authorities announce that daily life can return to normal, we will do so as well.

In the coming weeks, we will be getting used to a new set of policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines with an eye on any adjustments that need to be made or any oversights that need to be addressed. Such possible changes will be communicated as well as posted on the school's website at [www.ais-salzburg.at](http://www.ais-salzburg.at) These adaptations and the working out of daily implementation measures will also include consideration of a number of balancing elements that we hope will be appreciated by our students and provide them with some new and enjoyable features of daily life here at AIS-Salzburg—helping them maintain a positive and hopeful attitude toward this uniquely-challenging school year.

We thank you for your patience, your understanding and—most importantly—your agreement and cooperation with these measures. I think that we can all paint a picture of what a serious and undesirable situation we would potentially be in if worse comes to worst. Therefore, it is important that everyone in our community commit to the infringements on our everyday freedoms in order to achieve a higher goal: to take part in a first-class academic program of education that will serve our students for the rest of their lives.

Please do take the time to review this information carefully, send us your questions if you have any, and speak with your child about these in order to help establish a broad basis of understanding and agreement before we open our doors in September.

Sincerely,

Paul McLean  
Headmaster

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