



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Tentative Resumption of Classes on Campus in January, 2020

Date: December 18, 2020
Follow-Up Information: December 31, 2020

The American International School-Salzburg is tentatively planning on opening up its dormitories for boarding students and its classrooms for all students as of January 14, 2021. Student arrivals on campus may take place on January 12-13, 2021. This decision is tentative upon any restrictions imposed by the Austrian government disallowing such resumption of instruction on campus, face-to-face.

Following a second health 'lockdown' which began on November 3, 2020 and ended December 6th, the number of daily infections fell significantly. They have not, however, been brought down to the levels desired with approximately 2,500 new infections daily throughout Austria presently. Given this, the government has extended several restrictive measures through the holidays and into January, 2021 and is going to impose a third lockdown as of the 26th of December, it appears. Get-togethers over the holidays seem to represent a significant threat in spreading the virus further and generating a spike at the time schools are due to open early next year. The school administration hopes that these measures will result in a reduction of infections by early January and that some restrictive measures will then be lifted; including a return to negative testing requirements for entering Austria rather than the present, mandatory quarantine.

The Austrian government is, however, planning on all schools opening in January, although four days later than planned (January 10, 2021). This delay being put in place in order to carry out antibody testing of all school personnel. It seems that—barring any large jump in the numbers of infections—the government is strongly supporting school re-openings, which will allow us to resume in-class instruction as well.

It is the administration's opinion that schooling during the months of January, February and March will still require the instituting of various measures designed to protect the health of everyone in our community, unfortunately. Relief will come and normalcy return when vaccines are made available to the general public here starting in April, 2021. In the meantime, please be aware of the following aspects of returning to live instruction on our campus:

1. Any and all requirements placed upon the school and our educational or boarding provisions will be enacted and put into place without exception.
2. The previously-published [Corona Strategy](#) will remain in place following necessary updates (especially to conditions at health-warning level **RED**) which will be affected over the Christmas Break when the situation for January, 2021 becomes more clear and reliable.
3. It is of utmost importance that we do all that we can to protect and secure the resident community of our school from infection. Multiple measures will be in place to try and secure this. Should an infection occur within our boarding community, we plan to institute those measures previously published in our *Corona Strategy: Specific Scenarios and Reactions* paper ([Scenario #4](#)) available on our [homepage](#).
4. Entering Austria from abroad for the start of instruction and boarding in January is affected, presently, by entry restrictions for citizens of most nations (10-day quarantine). If the numbers go down significantly, this policy may return to requiring a negative PCR-test only. If a quarantine restriction remains in place through January, we will advise you of our planning in accommodation of this fact and

communicate this in the follow-up confirmation letter scheduled to be sent out on December 31, 2020. Students unable to arrive or who arrive later by choice will be excused from classes and online provision made for them until the time they are able to arrive in Salzburg.

We are, of course, monitoring the situation continually and closely as we will continue to do so throughout the coming months. A general update of this information will be sent out on December 31, 2020 in order to provide a more concrete picture of the situation and make any further adjustments that may be necessary or required.

In the meantime, we understand that there are other relevant points that require addressing to the degree this is possible presently. These include particular aspects of the enrollment agreement and addendum for 2020-2021 as well as the possible cancelling or adjusting of the programming offered by the school. Here is a brief overview of some of these issues including commentary:

Adjustments/Refunds of Tuition and Fees:

- A. Boarding student tuition and fees for the 2020-2021 school year will be adjusted downward whereby any weeks of instruction that are online due to the suspension of in-class instruction will be charged at the day student tuition and fees rate for this same year. Such calculations and refunds will be made at the end of the school year.
- B. Day student tuition and fees for the 2020-2021 school year will be adjusted downward whereby the costs of meals for any weeks of instruction online due to the suspension of in-class instruction will be deducted from the Spring Trimester invoice or at the end of the school year if necessary.
- C. A full refund of tuition and fees will be returned for any weeks of instruction that are neither online nor in-class due to government requirements to cease and desist operation of the school.

Excursions:

Fall Excursion: As the Fall Excursion (Venice, Athens) and the Junior Community Service Trip were postponed this fall due to the health situation, we hope to offer these in the spring of 2021 on either one of the two first weekends in March (3-7 or 10-14) or the last weekend in April (21-25). An administrative decision to finalize these plans will follow after confirmation of travel arrangements and costs as well as an evaluation of health risk has been made. Should the Fall Excursion be cancelled, a refund of €500 will be made at the end of the school year for all boarding students. If the Junior Community Service Trip is cancelled, a refund of €500 will be initiated at the end of the school year for all students in grade 11.

Winter Excursion: We are presently planning on the Winter Excursion (skiing/snowboarding in Lungau, February 25-28) to go ahead as planned. We have booked a hotel for ourselves alone and, provided the health situation and restrictions do not prohibit our participation, we will be able to enjoy this break at the end of February and the Winter Trimester. If the Winter Excursion is cancelled, a refund of €350 will be made at the end of the school year for all full-boarders.

Athletics Events:

The possibility of planning and carrying out athletics events during the remainder of the school year is unlikely due to the fact that nearly all international schools in our athletics conference have suspended such events and tournaments for the present school year. The AIS-Salzburg Athletics Director, Mr. Burns, will try to coordinate and plan such events as may be possible—within the limits of possible restrictions—to try and compensate for this as best possible.

Ski/Snowboarding Trips:

Presently, we are planning on offering the ski/snowboarding day trips included in full-boarding tuition rates. This may, however, need to undergo adjustment or postponement depending upon the health situation, legal requirements, or other relevant factors. Ski trips that are cancelled and cannot be re-scheduled will be refunded at €40 per trip for all full boarders.

Other Notes:

1. All boarding students—both full- and 5-day boarders—should plan on coming to the school on the arrival days in January (12th/13th) with a recent (not more than 72-hours old) CoVid-19 PCR negative test result.
2. At health risk level **RED** or **ORANGE**, the school administration cannot allow 5-day boarders to return home for the weekends unless there are specific circumstances with which the administration finds agreement and allowance.
3. With various vaccines presently being produced and distributed for inoculations in many countries, we do strongly recommend getting the vaccination before returning to school if this is possible. Please communicate with the school's health coordinator (jsuttmann@ais-salzburg.at) if this may be the case for you and be prepared to bring documentation of this vaccination when you arrive. Please note that PCR testing will still be required by the health authorities here in Austria for arrival, travel, etc.
4. If you have contracted CoVid-19 at any time while away from the school, you must communicate this with the school office and health coordinator and bring with you a confirmation of infection from your local doctor as proof of this as well. Again, having contracted the virus does not release a person from any of the testing requirements in place here in Austria.

We thank you again for your attention and consideration in these difficult circumstances. If you have further or particular questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school at any of the following addresses or numbers:

Paul McLean: pmclean@ais-salzburg.at

Felicia Gundringer: office@ais-salzburg.at

Joseph Suttmann, Health Coordinator: jsuttmann@ais-salzburg.at

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I will be sending out a further informational letter with an update to all community members on or around December 31, 2020. In the meantime, please inform or remind yourself about the schools Corona Strategy policies, procedures and protocols which will again be in affect. Any updates of these will be carried out in the next week and available on the school website homepage under '[Downloads](#)'. In an attached page, I have added the latest virus information for Austria and Salzburg for your consideration.

Thank you again and we wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season and a happy new year, 2021.

Yours,



Paul McLean
Headmaster

Corona Information: Austria and Salzburg

Present - December 18, 2020:

Austria

33,531 active cases
3,220 hospitalized cases
530 intensive care cases
Corona Ampel: **RED**
Infections per day (7-day average): 2,763
Infections per 100,000 population: 282.4

Salzburg

2,637 active cases
187 hospitalized cases
28 intensive care cases
Corona Ampel: **RED**
Infections per 100,000 population: 202.6

Restrictions in Place Presently

Indoor restriction/curfew: 20:00 - 06:00
Meetings of no more than 6 adults and 6 children from two households
All elementary and middle schools in session:

- Children must wear masks when in class as of age 10
- Senior high school students may meet for preparatory classes (masked)

Masking required in all indoor spaces with two or more persons present as well as on all public transports, ski lifts, etc.
Ski lifts and gondolas may open on Dec. 24 under strict restrictions
All restaurants, cafes, theaters, cinemas and sports facilities closed
Hotels are closed
Stores open no later than 19:00
Parks, museums, libraries, zoos and gardens open for visitors

Travel Restrictions Presently (As of Dec. 19, 2020)

Travelers arriving from all 'at-risk' countries are required to undertake a 10-day quarantine upon entrance to Austria as of December 19, 2020. 'At-risk' are all countries except Australia, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea and Uruguay. The 10-day quarantine requirement can be ended early with a negative PCR-test after five days of quarantine.

Upcoming Measures (anticipated as of Dec. 26, 2020)*

All of the above-mentioned restrictions continue, with the following exceptions/additions:
Ski lifts and gondolas closed through early January
Stores and commercial service providers closed
Possible movement restrictions between 06:00 and 20:00
Possible masking requirement out-of-doors around others
Increased testing for health and school personnel as well as care-providers
Possible closure of museums, parks, libraries
Austrian public schools opening on January 10 rather than the 6th.

** These measures are not confirmed at this time; further information to follow.*