



IMPORTANT UPDATE: CORONA RESTRICTIONS AND SCHOOL START IN JANUARY, 2020

To: All AIS-Salzburg Community Members

Date: **December 21, 2020**

Dear Parents and Students:

This message is to inform you that shortly after our sending of my letter last Friday December 18th, the Austrian government made a number of decisions concerning new or revised restrictions in place between December 26 and January 18, 2021 here in Austria. These include:

- There will be a hard lockdown throughout Austria from December 26, 2020 through January 24, 2021 (4 calendar weeks).
- Austrian public schools will open for in-class instruction on January 18, 2021. From January 6 to 15, will be online for all local Austrian students.
- All those resident in Austria who have a negative antibody test are freed from the lockdown as of January 18th; all those who choose not to be tested remain in lockdown until the 24th.
- As of December 19th, all those entering Austria are required to go into a 10-day quarantine, whereby they can test themselves out of the quarantine only after 5 days with a negative PCR-test. This restriction is in effect until January 18, 2021.

Given the above, we are presently *considering* the following actions:

1. Moving the start of the school year and on-campus instruction to the 21st rather than the 14th (one week later).
2. If the start is moved back one week, we also determine if the week of January 14 to 21 will include online instruction or if we take a week out of the Spring Break in April to accommodate this without lengthening the school year.

Again, these are present considerations and not fixed. The administration will continue to discuss these points while keeping alert to other possible changes or updates on government health policies and restrictions. It seems that if the numbers of infections are significantly reduced by the 18th of January and if the entry restrictions revert back to a required, negative PCR-test by the same date, there should be nothing standing in the way of initiating on-campus instruction.

I will send all community members an update on this situation as of December 31st. I understand that it is difficult for many of you to make plans given the latest developments. We will try to keep you as informed as possible in the meantime and thank you all for your patience.

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