



Corona Update: Latest Information

Date: March 23, 2021

Dear AIS-Salzburg Community Members;

Yesterday, March 22nd, the Austrian government ended another high-level meeting between government officials, provincial leaders and health officials and made a public announcement. This announcement was preceded by the hope of many that there would be some relief in the form of further alleviation or modification of the present restrictions and health measures in place for some time now.

However, due to the present infection situation—defined by both the 7-day incidence rates (see below) as well as numbers of intensive-care beds occupied by province—the government has not announced any abatement of the current restrictions. They have extended, generally, the measures presently in place through the Easter holidays in the hopes that with more and more of the population getting vaccinated daily, the measures will help stabilize and eventually bring down the numbers to more acceptable rates by mid-April.

Further, the government's primary concern at this time are with the eastern provinces of Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland (on the Hungarian border) where the positive infections are disturbingly high and the numbers of hospital beds utilized are becoming critical. Experts explain that this is due to the very high percentage of cases discovered (over 75%) which have been caused by the 'British' virus mutation (B.1.1.7) which is much more infectious than the previous varieties of the Corona virus.

In response, the government stated that further high-level meetings to determine how to address the situation in these regions will take place this week and may result in further restrictions regionally. This may include the wearing of masks indoors, increased testing requirements, restrictions on travel in and out of the region and/or possible school closings. It remains to be seen what the actual directives will be.

Salzburg province is also of concern as it has the second highest 7-day incidence rate per 100,000 population in Austria at this time (300 as of yesterday). However, there has not been an equally-corresponding increase in intensive-care patients in the provincial hospitals and clinics. Therefore, the national government hopes that measures that may apply to eastern Austria may not have to be applied immediately to the province of Salzburg.

As has been the case for a number of months now, the highest positive infection rates have been experienced within the population group aged 15 to 24 across Austria.

1. Current Situation

All hotels and restaurants, cafes, etc. remain closed. Masking and distancing is required in all public places and indoors outside of the home. Shops and grocery stores are open as are hairdressing salons (appointments with proof of negative test). Curfews are in place from 20:00 to 06:00 and those who can work from home are encouraged to do so. Public schools are open to secondary level students for two days per week; on the other three days, instruction and learning is online.

Here are the latest numbers:

Number of pos. infections nationwide in the past 7 days:	@ 3,000+ per day/average
Nationwide incidence rate per 100,000 over the past 7 days:	240.4 (was 207.6 on 16.03)
Population group with highest infection rate:	Ages 15-24
Incidence rate: Salzburg (province) per 100,000 over past 7 days:	300.3 (was 276.7 on 16.03)
Incidence rate: Salzburg (city) per 100,000 over past 7 days:	278.7 (was 258.7 on 16.03)
Vaccination doses received in Austria:	1,463,885 (was 1,370,085 on 16.03)
Registered vaccinations in Austria (total)	1,320,311 (was 1,079,144 on 16.03)
Registered double vaccinations for immunization	326,810 (was 278,549 on 16.03)
Total vaccine-eligible population (over 16)	7,757,564
Percentage of total vaccine-eligible population vaccinated	13.19% (was 10.63% on 16.03)
Registered vaccinations in Salzburg (province)	56,704 (10.15% of over 16 yrs.)

Commentary:

From now through mid-April, the government will be focusing on areas with high positive incidence rates as well as numbers of patients in intensive-care beds in the hospitals. Recently, it was announced that any region of Austria that has a 7-day incidence rate of positive infections per 100,000 population of over 400 will be required to implement further restrictions. Salzburg city is presently at 278.7 and Salzburg Province is at 300. These further restrictions may include any number of further requirements and may include the temporary closing of schools and negative testing required for travel in and out of the region.

At the present rate of growth, there is potential for the city of Salzburg to reach the critical level of incidence of 400 within the next 10-14 days unless the numbers level off or start to decline. With less than two weeks remaining before our Spring Break (April 3-11), it may be that the present wave of infections may reach its high point in early April with vaccination numbers helping curb this trend as of mid-April, eventually leading to some easing of restrictions.

Teachers and staff members at AIS-Salzburg will receive their vaccinations during the week before Easter (March 29-April 2, 2021) or shortly thereafter.

The government has also announced that the present restrictions on travel into Austria from abroad remain unchanged with a 10-day quarantine for all who enter and the possibility to escape the quarantine with a negative PCR or antigen test after 5 days of quarantine. These quarantine requirements are in place for all travelers from any nations *except* Australia, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, and South Korea.

2. AIS-Salzburg and Present Conditions

All present restrictions that have been in place since the students' return remain in place on our campus and we will continue to carry out testing, masking and distancing as required.

In accordance with recently-updated requirements, AIS-Salzburg is carrying out the following levels of self-testing with kits received from the government:

- All non-resident staff members and day students: 3x per week
- All 5-day boarders and resident staff members: 2x per week
- All resident students: 1x per week

To date there have been no positive test results with nearly 800 tests carried out at AIS-Salzburg.

3. Spring Break

The school's Spring Break will be from Friday afternoon, April 2, 2021 until Sunday evening, April 11, 2021. Most students have informed the staff of their travel plans over the break and approximately a dozen students will remain here on campus, taking up our offer for accommodation because of the present conditions. A program of activities, meals, and other resources will be expended to care for these students over the break.

If you have made plans for your son or daughter to depart Austria over the spring break period, we trust that you have communicated this wish with the Dean of Students, Ms. Cassandra Baehler and provided her with the details of the planned travel. Also, we trust that you have informed her of your travel plans for returning to the school following the break.

Here is important information for those who plan on returning to Austria at the end of the Spring Break:

Upon arrival at the Austrian border, you will need to present the following information:

a. a **negative PCR test** result taken less than 48 hours previously.

b. a completed **Pre-Travel Clearance Form** (PTC)

This PTC form is available online in English or German at <https://entry.ptc.gv.at/en.html>

At the top of this form, in the first box, is the section labeled, 'EXCEPTIONS'. Please check the fourth and final box that states, 'The entry is subject to an exception in § 4 or § 5 of the COVID-19 entry regulations. Paragraph §5 (4), point 13 grants an exception to all those persons who participate in educational programming in Austria. A screen shot of the exceptions block at the top of the PTC form as well as the exception statement (in German) are included at the bottom of this update.

c. a **statement from the school** confirming enrollment and residence at the school.

With these documents, it should be possible to proceed across the border and return to the school. If, by chance, the border guards do not recognize the exception or overlook this and require you sign a statement of quarantine and give the address of your residence (Moosstrasse 106, 5020 Salzburg), please do so without discussion or argumentation. Once here, the exception is recognized and a PCR test to confirm non-quarantine status will be done on the fifth day after arrival in Austria.

If you have any further questions related to Spring Break travel outside of Austria, please communicate these with our office staff as soon as possible at either office@ais-salzburg.at or cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at.

4. Hosting AIS-Salzburg Students Over Spring Break

The administration of AIS-Salzburg requires that any boarding student being hosted by anyone other than their parents, obtain the required release and responsibility signatures necessary and present these to the Dean of Students (cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at) as soon as possible.

All those who host our students need to remain aware of and maintain all required guidelines currently in place and mandated by law in Austria designed to keep the population safe and lessen the chance of infection. Should a positive infection of a hosted student occur during the period of being hosted, please be aware that such a resident student would not be allowed to return to the school until after a period of mandatory quarantine and testing.

5. Upcoming

Because we expect that the Corona situation should begin to ease up a bit as of the return from Spring Break, we are planning on several upcoming as noted on our calendar. Here is a listing of those events to be noted:

1. Spring Trimester **midterm** reporting: April 2, 2021 (reporting to be sent out by April 7, 2021)
2. **Advanced Placement® testing** on campus: May 3 - 14, 2021
3. **Year-end Awards Ceremony**: May 13, 2021 - If possible, at local restaurant
4. **Commencement** at Kavalierhaus, Schloss Klessheim: Thursday, May 20, 2021 15:00
5. **Final Examinations** (all in grades 9-11): May 24-27, 2021 on campus
6. **Departure Days**: May 27 (as of noon), 28 and 29, 2021

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Thank you again for your attention and continued support.

Yours,



Paul McLean
Headmaster
AIS-Salzburg

*PTC form exceptions
(check box four):*

EXCEPTIONS

The entry is subject to an exception stated in § 6a of the [COVID-19 entry regulation](#) (commuter traffic). i

One or more of the exceptions mentioned in § 7(1) or § 8 of the [COVID-19 entry regulation](#) are applicable to my entry. i

One or more of the exceptions mentioned in § 6(1) or § 6(2) of the [COVID-19 entry regulation](#) are applicable to my entry. i

The entry is subject to an exception in § 4(3) or § 5(5) of the [COVID-19 entry regulation](#). i

*Exception statement
(see #12 & 13):*

3. Abschnitt
Einreise aus sonstigen Staaten und Gebieten

§ 5. (1) Als sonstige Staaten und Gebiete im Sinne dieser Verordnung gelten alle nicht in § 4 Abs. 1 Einleitungssatz genannten Staaten und Gebiete.

(2) Aus einem in der **Anlage A** genannten sonstigen Staat oder Gebiet dürfen Personen uneingeschränkt einreisen, wenn sie bei der Einreise glaubhaft machen, dass sie sich innerhalb der letzten zehn Tage ausschließlich in Österreich oder in einem in der **Anlage A** genannten Staat oder Gebiet aufgehalten haben. Andernfalls gelten die Abs. 3 und 4 sinngemäß.

(3) Die Einreise aus einem anderen als in der **Anlage A** genannten sonstigen Staat oder Gebiet ist unzulässig. Diesfalls ist die Einreise zu untersagen.

(4) Abweichend von Abs. 3 gilt bei der Einreise aus einem anderen als in der **Anlage A** genannten sonstigen Staat oder Gebiet § 4 Abs. 2 sinngemäß, wenn es sich um

1. österreichische Staatsbürger, EU-/EWR-Bürger und Personen, die mit diesen im gemeinsamen Haushalt leben,
2. Schweizer Bürger sowie Personen, die mit diesen im gemeinsamen Haushalt leben,
3. Personen mit Wohnsitz oder gewöhnlichem Aufenthalt in EU-/EWR-Staaten oder Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, dem Vatikan oder der Schweiz und Personen, die mit diesen im gemeinsamen Haushalt leben,
4. Fremde, wenn diese über ein von Österreich ausgestelltes Visum D oder einen Lichtbildausweis gemäß § 95 des Fremdenpolizeigesetzes 2005, [BGBl. I Nr. 100/2005](#), verfügen,
5. Personen, die auf Grund einer Aufenthaltsberechtigung, eines Aufenthaltstitels oder einer Dokumentation des Aufenthaltsrechts nach dem Niederlassungs- und Aufenthaltsgesetz, [BGBl. I Nr. 100/2005](#), oder dem Asylgesetz 2005, [BGBl. I Nr. 100/2005](#), zum Aufenthalt in Österreich berechtigt sind,
- 5a. Personen, die über eine Bestätigung über die Antragstellung gemäß Art. 18 Abs. 1 des Abkommens über den Austritt des Vereinigten Königreichs Großbritannien und Nordirland aus der Europäischen Union und der Europäischen Atomgemeinschaft, ABl. L Nr. 29 vom 31.01.2020 S 7 (Austrittsabkommen), verfügen,
6. Mitglieder des Personals diplomatischer Missionen oder konsularischer Vertretungen und Personen, die mit diesen im gemeinsamen Haushalt leben,
7. Angestellte internationaler Organisationen und Personen, die mit diesen im gemeinsamen Haushalt leben,
8. humanitäre Einsatzkräfte,
9. Personen, die in einem Dienstverhältnis zu einer inländischen Gebietskörperschaft oder einer inländischen Körperschaft öffentlichen Rechts stehen und deren Dienstort im Ausland liegt oder deren Dienstverrichtung im Ausland erfolgt, soweit die Tätigkeit dieser Körperschaft im Ausland im Interesse der Republik Österreich liegt,
10. Personen, die zu beruflichen Zwecken einreisen,
11. eine Begleitperson im Rahmen der Einreise aus medizinischen Gründen gemäß § 6,
12. Personen, die zur Aufnahme oder Fortsetzung eines Studiums oder zur Forschung einreisen,
13. Personen, die zur Teilnahme am Schulbetrieb einreisen, oder
14. Personen, die zum Zweck der Wahrnehmung einer zwingenden gerichtlich oder behördlich auferlegten Pflicht, wie der Wahrnehmung von Ladungen zu Gerichtsverhandlungen, einreisen,

handelt.

(5) Abweichend von Abs. 3 und 4 gilt § 4 Abs. 3 für die dort genannten Personen auch bei der Einreise aus einem anderen als in der **Anlage A** genannten sonstigen Staat oder Gebiet.