



## Corona Update: Latest Information

Date: April 6, 2021

Dear AIS-Salzburg Community Members;

It's now April and we enter the 13th month of the Corona pandemic here in Austria. Like the weather, the present situation includes a bit of sunshine as well as some late snow—a mix of concern and optimistic planning.

The three provinces in Eastern Austria that have been in a total lockdown since April 1, 2021, remain the primary concern of the government health officials with the number of patients in intensive care remaining stubbornly at a dangerously high level. Today, it was announced that these three provinces will continue in lockdown-mode through April 18th.

Restrictions and health measures presently in place will remain so throughout the remaining provinces of Austria, including Salzburg. The government would like to continue to address problems regionally and locally with restrictions of movement and possible local lockdowns if necessary. For the time being, the numbers of infections remain relatively stable and it is hoped that they begin to decline over the coming weeks.

The government also announced today that they are beginning to make plans for opening up the economy further as of the start of May, 2021 provided the situation improves over the next four weeks. The chancellor of Austria announced optimistically that it may be possible for hotels, restaurants and other businesses to open their doors to guests at some point in May as the vaccination numbers should rise continually through the end of April and the numbers of positive infections decline proportionally.

### 1. Current Situation

In Salzburg city and province there have been no changes to the restrictions and measures in place these last several weeks. All hotels and restaurants, cafes, etc. remain closed. Masking and distancing is required in all public places and indoors outside of the home whenever two people are present. 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. Although schools are closed and instruction is online in Eastern Austria, schools remain open here.

Here are the latest numbers:

Number of pos. infections nationwide in the past 7 days:	@ 3,250+ per day/average
Nationwide incidence rate per 100,000 over the past 7 days:	233.8 (was 240.4 on 30.03)
Population group with highest infection rate:	Ages 15-24
Incidence rate: Salzburg (province) per 100,000 over past 7 days:	229.4 (was 269.2 on 30.03)
Incidence rate: Salzburg (city) per 100,000 over past 7 days:	231.6 (was 272.2 on 30.03)

Vaccination doses received in Austria:	2,033,085 (was 1,705,185 on 30.03)
Registered vaccinations in Austria (total)	1,773,606 (was 1,569,086 on 30.03)
Registered double vaccinations for immunization	494,463 (was 417,321 on 30.03)
Total vaccine-eligible population (over 16)	7,757,564
Percentage of total vaccine-eligible population vaccinated	16.49% (was 15.29% on 30.03)
Registered vaccinations in Salzburg (province)	102,512 (12.7% of over 16 yrs.)

*Commentary:*

It was recently announced that Austria (and the EU generally) were around six weeks behind the immunization rate of the UK and the USA. However, a much higher volume of vaccination doses is expected to be delivered to Austria over the next four weeks and will be immediately administered. The government hopes that they will have everyone over the age of 65 that desires the vaccine, to be immunized by the end of the month and that in May, all those over 50 will receive the vaccination. If everything goes according to plan, the government announced that all those who want to get the vaccination may be able to do so in June, 2021.

All staff members and teachers at AIS-Salzburg have now been vaccinated with the first dose and are expected to receive the second required vaccination in 9 to 12 week's time.

## **2. AIS-Salzburg and Present Conditions**

Frequent self-testing in schools and at AIS-Salzburg continue in accordance with government requirements. AIS-Salzburg has received significant numbers of test kits which cover the spring break vacation period as well and will experience no shortage of test kits in the coming weeks.

There are no present plans to shut down schools in Salzburg city or province and higher infection numbers will be addressed regionally or locally. We do not expect any further lockdown requirements or regulations to be put into place in the coming 7 days which would negatively affect the return of our students from the spring break on the 10th, 11th or 12th of April.

Should schools be closed in Salzburg city at any time this coming month, the school will continue to offer boarding to any and all day students and will also provide online instruction and learning to those who cannot arrive at school during such a period. Full-boarding students will be taught in regular classes according to our normal instructional schedule.

## **3. Returning to Austria after Spring Break**

If there are any changes of plans for return travel to Austria and the school, please communicate this to us by email to either [pmclean@ais-salzburg.at](mailto:pmclean@ais-salzburg.at) or [cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at](mailto:cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at). Over the break period, the front office phones will be only infrequently manned, so electronic communication is preferred.

We trust that all those who traveled outside of Austria took with them the school's letter of confirmation and are clear about any other of the border restrictions and exceptions presently in place including PCR testing and the Pre-Travel Clearance (PTC) form. If questions remain, just let us know electronically as soon as you can.

#### 4. Visiting AIS-Salzburg for Spring Commencement (Graduation Ceremony)

At this time, it is not possible to further clarify the situation for those parents who would like to visit Salzburg for our Commencement Exercises (graduation ceremony) on May 20, 2021. Although the predictions are optimistic, it may be a couple more weeks before decisions are made that will ensure that hotels, etc., are open and able to accommodate guests. As soon as we hear any news on this topic, we will forward it to you.

The AIS-Salzburg administration is planning on our annual Commencement Exercises to take place on Thursday afternoon, May 20, 2021 at the Kavalierhaus, Klessheim Palace. We understand that under the present circumstances, it is difficult for the parents of our seniors as well as other guests to make plans for participating in this wonderful event. Because of the changeable nature of the present health crisis, it is difficult for us to assist you with reliable facts right now, but I think we can give you some parameters that will likely hold firm over the next 8-10 weeks and we will update these with new information as soon as it is available. Here is an updated list of points mentioned last week as well:

1. At present, all those entering Austria from all locations **except Australia, Iceland, New Zealand, Singapore or South Korea** are required to remain in quarantine for 10 days with release after five days with a negative PCR or antigen test.
2. Exceptions are made for necessary business travel, education continuation, medical or legal reasons. Although there is no particular exception made for collecting family members and then departing Austria after a short period of time, we believe that this *may* be considered an acceptable excuse for entering and departing without quarantine requirements.
3. Hotels are presently closed except to those who are required—because of the exception applied to them—to travel and stay in Austria. Some business travel is allowed under this exception. Tourism is not. We do expect that if the numbers of infections go down by the end of April, hotels will eventually be allowed to open, although tourists may still be restricted from coming until the summer.
4. We do *not* expect Austria or other EU countries to lift all quarantine requirements before the beginning of June and perhaps not before mid-summer.

#### 5. Upcoming

1. **Advanced Placement® testing** on campus: May 3 - 14, 2021
2. **Year-end Awards Ceremony:** May 13, 2021 - If possible, at a local restaurant
3. **Commencement Exercises** at Kavalierhaus, Schloss Klessheim: Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 15:00
4. **Junior High Student Departures:** Friday/Saturday, May 21/22, 2021
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

Thank you again for your attention and continued support.

Yours,



Paul McLean  
Headmaster  
AIS-Salzburg

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