



**Final Corona Update:**

**Latest Information  
and  
Important Information Concerning Commencement and Year-End Events**

Date: May 12, 2021

Dear AIS-Salzburg Community Members;

This is the final Corona Update I am sending out this school year. While I am relieved to report that the situation is improving rapidly and positively, it would be remiss of me not to thank all of you for your remaining in close contact with us throughout this challenging year and doing what is necessary, although undesirable, to get through this pandemic with results that far exceed expectations. The students, staff and faculty members of AIS-Salzburg have, in my opinion, done an absolutely outstanding job in meeting this crisis with excellent cooperation and magnificent discipline. The level of cooperation within this small community has been remarkable and a credit to the maturity, charity and cohesion of every individual member. You are all deserving of every high credit and compliment and the first has to come from myself. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

I would especially like to focus attention on those senior students who will move on from AIS-Salzburg to further studies around the world with this update. Few high school classes of seniors have been confronted with more restriction, more curtailment of movement or more loss of expected programming than the class of 2021. Yet their spirit, their energy and enthusiasm for their studies and their focus on achievement never faltered nor did it flag at any time this year. In fact, the opposite. This year's group of graduates is one that will be long remembered for the quality of their academic productions, for their outstanding motivation and persistent effort, and for their open, communicative and cooperative attitudes. One might expect—given the frequency of journalistic efforts to focus our attention on such things—that they would be de-motivated, downcast and reduced to indifference by online learning, campus restrictions, distancing requirements, masking and all the rest of it. They were not. They deserve our highest compliments while we also need to recognize that they have been supported by parents and family members that have encouraged and fortified them throughout.

As we enter the final weeks of the school year, we would like to inform the community not only of the present Covid situation in Salzburg and Austria, but also provide information on the traditional, end-of-year celebratory events and departure procedures as well. What starts well and proceeds satisfactorily needs to finish appropriately.

***May 19, 2021***

Next Wednesday, May 19, 2021, the government will reduce many of the Covid-related restrictions that have been in place for many months now. Restaurants, hotels, theaters and other venues will be allowed to open until 22:00. Indoor and outdoor sports individual and team practices will be allowed. Spectator sports will allow spectators again. Entertainment and leisure facilities will be allowed to open their doors once again and the Austrian public schools will

welcome back all of their students for daily, face-to-face instruction in the classrooms. Relatively tight restrictions such as personal registrations, negative testing or proof of vaccination, etc., will continue to be required and masking and distancing will still play a role, but these openings will go a long way toward a feeling of the resumption of normal life. Only in areas that experience continuing high rates of infection may experience further, lockdown-style restrictions or limits on free movement in and out of the region.

Between now and May 19, 2021, the present restrictions and measures relevant to protecting health will remain in place in Salzburg and Austria.

## Entering Austria

At Austria's borders, the government has created a control system whereby all those entering Austria will be categorized depending upon the place from which their travel originated. Tied to the ECDC Map for at-risk Covid locations, a three-tiered threat level will determine the conditions of passing the border. This system will go into effect on May 19, 2021:

- Green:** All those from **low-risk** areas - no testing or quarantine required (there are presently no low-risk countries directly neighboring Austria)
- Orange:** All those from **medium-risk** areas - negative test, proof of vaccination (first shot, not less than 22 days previous) or proof of recovery from Corona; no quarantine
- Red:** All those from **high-risk** areas - negative test, proof of vaccination or proof of recovery from Corona; 10-day quarantine with testing after a minimum of five days  
(Three countries are presently classified as high-risk: South Africa, India and Brazil)

For those who may be planning to enter Austria for participation in the Commencement Exercises (see further information below) or to pick up their children from the school following completion of the school year, you should be aware that one of the exceptions listed by the Austrian Foreign Ministry is for, 'reasons associated with immediate family-needs.' (*Besonders berücksichtigungswürdige Gründe im familiären Kreis* - [https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/freizeit\\_und\\_strassenverkehr/reisen\\_und\\_ferien/Reisebeschr%C3%A4nkungen-durch-das-Coronavirus.html#Familie](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/freizeit_und_strassenverkehr/reisen_und_ferien/Reisebeschr%C3%A4nkungen-durch-das-Coronavirus.html#Familie))

Although such 'immediate family needs' are primarily associated with health or other emergencies, it may be acceptable that one can enter without restrictions to pick up and transport a family member who is a minor.

## Here are the latest numbers:

Number of pos. infections nationwide in the past 7 days:	@ 2,250 per day/average
Nationwide incidence rate per 100,000 over the past 7 days:	89.1 (was 182 on 25.04)
Incidence rate: Salzburg (province) per 100,000 over past 7 days:	75.4 (was 191.1 on 24.04)
Incidence rate: Salzburg (city) per 100,000 over past 7 days:	78.2 (was 190.3 on 24.04)

Vaccination doses received in Austria:	3,865,995 (was 2,798,424 on 24.04)
Registered vaccinations in Austria (total):	3,744,269 (was 2,798,424 on 24.04)
Registered double vaccinations for immunization:	1,001,839 (was 779,722 on 24.04)

Total vaccine-eligible population (over 16):	1,157,564
Percentage of total vaccine-eligible population vaccinated:	36.5% (was 26.8% on 24.04)
Registered vaccinations in Salzburg (province):	224,665 (36% of over 16 yrs.)

*Commentary:*

Both the amount of vaccines available as well as the number of people vaccinated has increased dramatically in Austria in the past two weeks. Last Friday, over 100,000 people were vaccinated in a single day and we are now at the point where over one-third of the population has received the first injection and over 10% of the population has received both.

***AIS-Salzburg and Present Conditions***

As May 19 is very near the end of the school year, AIS-Salzburg will continue to maintain the requirements of testing, masking and distancing presently in place. Despite openings in other areas of society and the economy, Austrian schools are expected to continue with the measures that have been in place for some time now. These will apply to AIS-Salzburg as well.

***Commencement Exercises and Other End-of-Year Events***

Although many businesses and facilities will be opened on the 19th, the Austrian government has determined that private events are not allowed until mid-July 2021 and that private get-togethers of more than four people (indoors) and ten people (outdoors) is prohibited. The only exception to this is to gain permission from the health authorities of Salzburg Province as an exception.

We are pleased to announce that AIS-Salzburg has received such permission from the authorities and will be going forward with our Commencement Exercises at the Kavalierhaus at Schloss Klessheim on May 20th at 15:00 (3:00 PM). However, we will be very tightly restricted by a number of health-protection requirements:

1. We are restricted to 50 total persons inside the Kavalierhaus
2. The total period of time for the ceremony is 2 hours
3. All participants must present a recent, negative test, proof of vaccination (at least 22 days following first injection) or proof of recovery from Covid-19 at entrance
4. Registration of name, address and contact info must be submitted at entrance
5. Distancing is established with at least one empty chair between all persons
6. All participants must wear a mask at all times during the event
7. No live music

We are required to adhere to all of the above-mentioned measures. Although we realize that these are not ideal, we are very happy to be concluding the enrollment of our seniors with a special ceremony that will be memorable and properly celebratory. To keep the total number of participants at 50, we will need everyone's cooperation:

- 10 Graduates
- 3 Presenters/Announcers
- 30 Guests
- 7 Others

This will require that each senior student has present no more than three family members or guests. We will also, unfortunately, not be able to accommodate most of the teaching faculty and resident staff nor the underclassmen at AIS-Salzburg. We know that a special event in the lives of

your children represents a very special moment that you would like to be a part of and understand if this causes some disappointment and apologize for this.

Bear in mind that there will be time before the ceremony and after the ceremony for further guests and well-wishers to be with the seniors/graduates, take pictures, and enjoy the large park and grounds of the venue (weather permitting). The ceremony itself will begin with a processional into the Kavalierhaus and end with a recessional back outside where mingling, etc. can take place with guests and friends that were unable to be seated inside. Further, we plan on sending a live-stream of the ceremony and create a video as well, posting this to all community members afterwards.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in making the Commencement Exercises of the Class of 2021 a success and a memorable experience for this exceptional class.

### ***Annual Awards Ceremony*** - May 13, 2021, 16:00 (4:00)

Our annual awards ceremony will have to take place in the Musikerheim, near the school campus. We had hoped, for a while, that we would be able to enjoy a school celebratory dinner at a local restaurant, but our scheduling prohibited this by one week. The ceremony will recognize accomplishments and achievement in boarding life, athletics, academics as well as the announcement of the senior class honors. We will be video recording this event as well.

### ***Sports Day*** - May 19, 2021 (all day)

Originally scheduled for today, May 12th, the rain crossed our plans and we are hoping that the annual Sports Day will go forward next Wednesday, May 19th. From experience, it should be a great day in the spring sunshine, enjoying a lot of activity, and tanking a little bit of mental energy before final examinations begin. I'm quite certain that Mr. Burns will put together some spectacular video material using his fabulous drone!

### ***Junior High Student Departures*** - May 21-23, 2021

All students in grades 7 and 8 will complete the spring trimester on Friday, May 21st at 15:40. As of that time, they may prepare for their departure and check out of the dormitories with appropriate departure plans received from the parents and approved by the administration. Departures may take place at any time from 16:00 on Friday, May 21st through Sunday, May 23rd. If you have any questions concerning the departure of your child, please contact Ms. Cassandra Baehler at [cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at](mailto:cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at) at any time.

### ***Final Examinations*** - May 24-27, 2021

All students in grades 9, 10 and 11 will sit final examinations during the last week of the school year from Monday, May 24th through Thursday, May 27th. The final testing schedule will proceed as follows:

All Period 1 Classes	Final Exam 1	Monday, May 24, 09:00-11:30
All Period 2 Classes	Final Exam 2	Monday, May 24, 13:00-15:30
All Period 3 Classes	Final Exam 3	Tuesday, May 25, 09:00-11:30
(Study Hall - All full- and 5-day boarders)		Tuesday, May 25, 13:00-15:00

All Period 4 Classes	Final Exam 4	Wednesday, May 26, 09:00-11:30
All Period 5 Classes	Final Exam 5	Wednesday, May 26, 13:00-15:30
All period 6 Classes	Final Exam 6	Thursday, May 27, 09:00-11:30

Boarding students may check out and depart the school as of 12:00, Thursday, May 28th. The parents and guardians of all 9th, 10th and 11th grade student should communicate their departure plans as soon as these are made with Cassandra Baehler at [cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at](mailto:cbaehler@ais-salzburg.at)

Please let us know if you have any questions concerning any end-of-year events and please inform us if preliminary PCR testing may be required before departure.

### ***Commentary***

We've almost made it. We've almost made it very well, in fact. We look forward to the next three weeks with anticipation of good things to come and with the satisfaction of a job well done. We could not have done this without all of you and your continued, unfailing support.

Thank you.

Yours,



Paul McLean Headmaster AIS-Salzburg