

Corona Update

November 19, 2021

Dear AIS-Salzburg Community Members;

As you will have read, the provincial governments of Salzburg and Upper Austria announced yesterday, November 18, 2021, that both provinces are in total lockdown and that this lockdown includes restrictions for everyone, whether vaccinated or not. Today, a high-level meeting which included all of the provincial governors and members of the national government, including the Education and Health Ministers, decided to establish a ***nation-wide lockdown for everyone in Austria effective as of Monday, November 22nd.*** Today, several other issues were discussed which remained unclear as of yesterday evening. We now have further clarity given recent announcements here.

I. Lockdown Details Released

1. ***Schools and kindergartens will remain open during the period of total lockdown. All parents are encouraged not to send their children to school and to engage in online instruction for the length of the restriction. However, all students in public and private schools may attend instruction in schools and classrooms if they desire. Instructional programming will continue to be restricted by the present, Level III measures.***
2. A general curfew from 0:00 to 24:00 daily is in effect. Departing one's home is allowed only for:
 - a. those who must work and cannot do their jobs from home and for students who choose to attend classes live at educational institutions.
 - b. purchasing groceries and other necessities
 - c. meeting doctor's appointments and other health-related engagements that have been scheduled
 - d. regular exercise
3. FFP2 masks are required nation-wide in all indoor areas, including workplaces and schools.
4. The present lockdown will be carried out for the next 10 days followed by an evaluation and possible continuation (likely). Experts expect the lockdown to be in place through December 13, 2021 minimally. When the lockdown is ended, only vaccinated persons will be allowed to enjoy freedom from many or most of these restrictions; unvaccinated persons will continue to be under the present requirements.
5. **The Austrian Health Ministry and Parliament will implement a mandatory Covid-19 vaccination law applicable to everyone in Austria as of February 1, 2022.**

II. AIS-Salzburg Under Lockdown

Given the very high level of vaccinations among the student body as well as 100% of the staff, the administration of AIS-Salzburg is very pleased that the government will allow in-class, face-to-face instruction to continue throughout this lockdown period.

Parents, of day-, 5-day and boarding students enrolled at AIS-Salzburg, that ***choose voluntarily not to send their children to the school*** for live, face-to-face instruction, will be provided with online, 'hybrid' academic programming in replacement. If you desire to take advantage of this option, we would need to be

informed of this before the resumption of classes following the break next week and before the start of instruction on Monday morning, November 29, 2021. You can inform us of this decision by email (office@ais-salzburg.at or pmclean@ais-salzburg.at), or by telephone (+43 662 824617).

As day students will be allowed to continue their regular attendance in classes at the school, there should not be any need to offer spaces in the school's dormitories for day students who would like to become part-time boarders during the lockdown period. If, however, particular circumstances make this desirable or necessary, please contact our office to discuss this further.

Further aspects of our educational offerings will be modified in accordance with the general restrictions placed upon all schools in Austria (Health-Risk Level III). These include:

1. Free time off campus will be limited to exercise outings which will include runs, walks, etc. All other activities, outings, excursions, trips and visits to restaurants, shops, and other commercial businesses are impossible because of the lockdown. Exceptions for doctor's visits and other health necessities will be provided.
2. Physical education courses will not be held at the Rif Sports Center during the lockdown as this facility will also be closed for the duration of the lockdown. PE will be on campus when weather allows and individual physical training and activity will be organized online as it was this past spring with some success.
3. The kitchen, janitorial and cleaning staff are considered essential personnel and will therefore continue to provide their services to the school throughout the lockdown period.
4. AIS-Salzburg will continue to implement the requirements of masking during the academic day for all while indoors, distancing where it is possible to require and testing 3x weekly for all students and staff. We will also continue to provide assistance to those who desire becoming fully vaccinated and appropriately assist them in this endeavor (present vaccination rate among students is around 90%).
5. Competitive sports team practices and competitions will be suspended during the lockdown as required by the government and Level III health-risk level recently implemented in all Austrian schools.
6. Hourly masking breaks, ventilation of indoor areas and hygiene measures will remain in effect throughout the school. Third parties will not be allowed to enter the school buildings.

III. Other Points

To date, the administration of AIS-Salzburg is not aware of any new travel restrictions implemented by the Austrian government that may negatively affect our students' return to the school following next week's break period. However, other nations may very well implement restrictions given the very high levels of Covid-19 infections presently in Austria. If we become aware of any new measures that affect travel, we will inform you of this as soon as possible. All parents of students who will be departing the school in the coming days should keep themselves up-to-date and aware of any possible restrictions or requirements.

Please remember that all boarding students are officially registered at the school address and, therefore, will be allowed to re-enter Austria following their travels. Those who are vaccinated, should also not have to face quarantine requirements; those unvaccinated will likely be quarantined for a minimum of 5 days at the school.

All students returning to the school following the upcoming break (November 24-28, 2021) must present a valid, recent, negative PCR test before entering the school's facilities, including the dormitories. Those who arrive without such a test result will be sent to the nearest testing station and will need to delay their return to the school until the test result is received. This normally takes around 24 hours.

Anyone traveling in the coming days who would desire a document that officially confirms their enrollment and residence at AIS-Salzburg to carry with them upon return to Austria should contact the school office as soon as possible. We will send such confirmation documentation to you by email (scanned).

Finally, please be aware that the government of Austria will implement a Covid-19 mandatory vaccination law. This means that all students enrolled at AIS-Salzburg will need to be vaccinated before February 1, 2022. Otherwise, enrollment is forfeited.

Once again, we thank you for your patience and your support. Please direct any questions or commentary to the school contact numbers listed below.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours,



Paul McLean
Headmaster