



Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update Number 15 - 12th March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

As indicated in my message last night, we have now listened to the press conference held by the Austrian Minister of Education, and can provide more details about how the coming weeks will work.

Government Objectives

- ☑ The primary objective of all current measures is to reduce contact between people as much as possible, thereby reducing the chances of large scale transmission of the virus. This requires every adult to assess whether going to work is absolutely essential, or can be managed with teleworking. The professions cited as examples where this is not possible are medical doctors, security personnel, the police and transport.
- ☑ Schools should do everything possible to enable families to stay home and yet support students in meaningful activity.

Families have already been informed that as of Monday there will be no on-site teaching for students in grades 9 - 12.

Today the Education Minister made the following points:

1. Schools in many of the countries bordering Austria have already implemented full school closure measures.
2. The numbers of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Austria are increasing rapidly
3. For children aged 3-14 the government currently seeks to establish a balance between learning and child care needs.
4. Schools should not introduce any new learning during the period of special arrangements but rather consolidate and practice.
5. For families who absolutely have no alternative, the school should offer a skeleton staff for supervision of activities.

What is VIS going to do?

- ☑ Starting on Monday 16th March, all students (grades ELC-12) will be taught using our *Distance Learning* model which does include the provision for new learning.
- ☑ Attendance will not be recorded during this period but we are confident that you will support the *Distance Learning* experience.
- ☑ It is anticipated that the vast majority of students will be working at home.
- ☑ Most of the teachers will be working from home providing the *Distance Learning* experiences.
- ☑ There will be a limited number of staff on-site to provide supervision of students and, if necessary, guidance to parents/guardians.
- ☑ Families who need the school to supervise their children, because they fall into one of the categories of essential employment need will be expected to contact Dr. Lang clang@vis.ac.at (Primary) or Mr Devenport ddevenport@vis.ac.at (Secondary) to determine the level of supervision. There will be an expectation for parents who require supervision that they submit confirmation from their employer attendance at work is absolutely essential. **This must be finalised by 13.00 on Friday 13th March.**
- ☑ If students are attending school for onsite supervision they must arrive for 08.15 and stay until 15.00.
- ☑ The school cafeteria will offer a very limited lunch programme of sandwiches and snacks.
- ☑ These measures will remain in force until the 3rd April unless we are instructed otherwise by the Austrian authorities.
- ☑ Our overarching goal is to do what we can to support student and staff welfare and continue learning as best we can - thank you for your support!