

Dear ISU families,

As we prepare to welcome our students and teachers back tomorrow, I would like to update you on our continued response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

- On Monday 24 February, I asked those parents whose families may have travelled to areas affected by coronavirus to inform us and contact us should they have questions or require support.
- To our knowledge, no members of our community have travelled to the specific high-risk areas, which you can find on the Robert Koch Institute website: [see list here](#).
- A very small number of families travelled through "yellow" zones and one family had an extended family member visiting from a "yellow" zone. These families have taken all the necessary precautionary steps including self-isolation, seeking medical advice and testing. They are returning/will return to school once the "all clear" is given by a doctor.
- I thank these families for the support they showed in following our advice.
- So far there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in [Ulm](#) or [Neu-Ulm](#).

I have closed my two previous emails on this topic with this point but I would like to put it earlier in this communication: it continues to be important that parents and students do not stigmatise other students based on their travel, health status, ethnic or national origin.

With consultation, the school may suggest that a student stays home from school depending on travel history and the likelihood of contact with infected persons. We strive to balance caution with reason and implement responses that are prudent, justified and effective.

A common-sense approach will support our community's well-being and health. Anyone with a sore throat or symptoms of respiratory illness, with or without a fever, are asked to refrain from visiting the campus. If students are experiencing these symptoms, parents should inform us and keep their children at home.

Neu-Ulm Support:

The City of Neu-Ulm set up a hotline where you can get advice. The hotline is staffed by specialists from the State Office for Health and Social Affairs and the district health offices.

The hotline can be reached at this number:

(030) 9028-2828.

I have attached some further resources to this email that were gratefully received from one of our parents who is a pediatric surgeon.

As communicated on Thursday 27 February, the *Schulamt Neu-Ulm* and *Bayerisches Landesamt für Gesundheit* are not implementing any measures at this stage. They informed us that *Schulpflicht* (law regarding school attendance) remains in operation. Exceptions are obviously made for students who are unwell or who may have self-isolate. All other students should attend school as normal.

As you are aware we have now moved from Level 1 (low risk) to Level 2 (moderate risk). This is the second step on a four step response plan. Amongst other things, Level 2 means all scheduled school events will take place as normal; however, field trips and day trips will be cancelled in addition to any events involving guests outside the ISU community. Not only does this include ISTA and the university fair but also hosting and taking part in sports events.

As part of our reception sign-in procedure, all non-ISU guests will now have to complete a short questionnaire to help determine any risk. We have temporarily halted trial days by students from outside our community and we are currently not offering school tours for prospective families.

Upcoming week:

ISU will continue to remain in regular contact with the *Schulamt Neu-Ulm* and *Bayerisches Landesamt für Gesundheit*. ISU will remain open; however, should we have to close we do have provisions to continue learning online. This will be communicated if the need arises.

Our Health, Safety, Security, Environment (HSSE) team will meet again first thing on Monday morning to assess the measures we have taken and determine additional measures.

We will be reinforcing precautions with our students and staff, reminding them to wash their hands frequently, avoid shaking hands, and to cough and sneeze into their arms or into a tissue. Tissues should be thrown away immediately. Please also remind your children of these precautions. Hand sanitizers, disinfectant, and tissues will be widely available throughout the school. Besides our regular cleaning and disinfecting, regular disinfecting will be done throughout the day.

In Lower School (LS) there will be a focus on health and well-being with students and staff as we have stressed good hygiene throughout the section. Health and well-being tips will be shared with students, and teachers will be actively encouraging and facilitating them throughout the week. The following [video](#) will be shown at a Grade 3-5 assembly tomorrow.

The MSUS will also have an assembly tomorrow and we will continue to emphasize the importance of hygiene with students, supporting them to put tips we have provided into practice.

As stated in my email Thursday, while ISU takes the virus outbreak extremely seriously, I would also ask everyone to remain calm when it is all too easy to panic. As highlighted by the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-51680560> 28 Feb) the head of WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed that fear and misinformation were the biggest challenges to overcome with the coronavirus. Please be rest assured that the well-being and safety of your children and our staff is always our primary concern. As the situation evolves, so too will ISU response.

Yours faithfully,

Liam Browne
Director