

Dear ISU families,

I apologise in advance for this long email but I trust you will take the time to read it carefully regarding updates on the Coronavirus (Covid-19):

Recent developments:

You may know a person who has since been confirmed with Covid-19 was at the Dietrich Theatre, Neu-Ulm on the evening of 22 February from 19:00. More information can be found here

<https://landkreis.neu-ulm.de/de/aktuelles-detail/patient-mit-coronavirus-erkrankung-besuchte-kino-in-neu-ulm.html>

I ask anyone who was at the Dietrich Theatre from 19:00 on 22 February to seek medical advice and to inform me immediately, please. If you have questions, please do contact the *Gesundheitsamt* helpline at 09131/68085101.

ISU response:

I have been in communication with the *Schulamt Neu-Ulm* this morning. Dr Batzner from the *Schulamt* stated that any family that has been in the Lodi area of Italy need to report to the *Gesundheitsamt* 09131/68085101. If you or a family member have been to China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Iran, Veneto and Lombardy in Italy over the last 14 days or have been in contact with someone from these regions, we again ask that your child(ren) stay at home and can return to school once a letter from your doctor stating that your child(ren) is healthy is obtained.

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 are self-quarantined. All other students should attend school as normal.

At ISU, we will now move from Level 1 (low risk) to Level 2 (moderate risk). All scheduled school events will take place as normal; however, field trips and day trips will be cancelled. As you know ISU will be hosting an ISTA event next week and a university fair later in the month. I will now be cancelling these events. I know this will be disappointing for many students and families.

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.

Next steps:

ISU will 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.

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 are available in all classrooms and shared spaces. In addition to our regular cleaning and disinfecting, regular disinfecting will be done throughout the day.

Whilst the school takes the virus outbreak extremely seriously, I would also ask everyone to remain calm at a time when it is all too easy to panic. ISU's plans have already been shared with staff and which pertains to all functions of the school, from teaching to trips to gatherings involving large numbers of people. Our plan follows advice from the *Schulamt Neu-Ulm*, *Bayerisches Landesamt für Gesundheit*, and WHO, as well as the planning put in place by other international schools. It continues to be important that parents and students do not stigmatise other students based on their travel, health status, ethnic or national origin.

Kind regards,

Liam