

Dear ISU families,

I am sure most of you have been following the spread of the Coronavirus in the news. ISU has a series of protocols for an epidemic/pandemic. More especially, we will follow advice from the German health authority, *Bundesministerium für Gesundheit*, about the appropriate course of action.

In the event of such an incident, ISU's priorities are to:

- Safeguard the well-being and interests of students, families and staff
- return to normal working quickly

We are currently at Level 1: Low risk which involved monitoring the situation carefully. Please do take some time to read the information below.

Reducing exposure:

According to the [WHO website](#):

“[WHO's standard recommendations](#) for the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses are as follows, which include hand and respiratory hygiene, and safe food practices:

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissues away immediately and wash hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough;
- If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your healthcare provider;
- When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals;
- The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.”

Symptoms

According to the [WHO website](#), “common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.”

In-house Preventative Measures

- Hand washing and use of sanitisers in classrooms several times daily, particularly after using public transport and shaking hands
- Exchanging air in classrooms regularly throughout the day by opening windows fully
- Sending students home with temperatures over 38o

In cases of suspected or reported infections within the ISU community, the Director, upon consultation with the local school authorities (*Staatliches Schulamt*), may:

- Close classes
- Close divisions
- Close the school, as appropriate

Who to contact?

- Parents are advised to contact their family doctor or the health authorities helpline (Gesundheitsdienst Neu-Ulm: 0731/7040-183 and 0731/7040-1283 or the Schulamt Neu-Ulm, Dr Batzner: staatl.schulamt@ira.neu-ulm.de, 0731-974840);
- Further queries can be directed to members of the Senior Leadership Team: Dr Browne, Mr Rawlinson, and Ms Bachman;
- Parents must contact the school in the case of a suspected infection or direct contact with an infected person;
- Parents must contact the school if they are travelling/have just returned from an infected area.

Responsibility of parents

- informing of travel plans: Parents/families returning from an infected area are required to inform the school of their travel plans
- In cases of high risk / suspected infection, the child will not be able to return to school before the incubation period is complete (14 calendar days) and with a doctor's note
- In cases of high risk / suspected infection, parents will be required to provide a doctor's note confirming that the child is not infected before being allowed to return to school

Informing the ISU community

We want to ensure that our community is protected from this virus. Based on the policies of some companies in Germany, we would ask anyone who travels to China, to keep their children at home for one week after the return of the family member. Anyone returning from Wuhan should remain at home for 14 days.

If you have visitors from China, we would ask you to keep your children at home for one week after the arrival of the visitor.

If members of these families display the symptoms of high temperature and/or respiratory difficulties, they should immediately report to a doctor and remain at home until the all-clear is given.

Students who have to stay at home will be provided with work to compete on-line where appropriate.

Communication with the ISU community on this matter will come directly from the Director and Senior Leadership Team. In the case of a confirmed case of infection within the ISU community, ISU will be guided by directives from the [Bundesministerium für Gesundheit](#) and/or [Bayerisches Landesamt für Gesundheit](#).

It is important that students do not stigmatize those who have been unlucky enough to pick up a respiratory disease and treat them with respect and caring on their return to school. Please know that we are prepared and ready should things move to a more serious level. For now, you should feel safe in the knowledge that we are being vigilant and proactive and have plans in place should things change. We will be monitoring the situation and health authority advice closely and will be in touch with updates if necessary.

Yours faithfully,

Liam Browne
Director