



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF RIGA

IMPORTANT: IMMEDIATE SCHOOL CLOSURE

COVID-19 UPDATE

Greetings ISR community.

As many of you will have just witnessed, the Latvian Prime Minister and Minister of Health have declared that all schools are to be closed until April 14th. This was communicated on TV and we expect to receive the written communication soon.

Therefore, the entire school, on both campuses, Preschool - Grade 12 will be closed tomorrow. Fortunately, we have been preparing for such a situation. Tomorrow, teachers will be coming to school and using the day to best prepare for implementation of the distance learning plan (DLP) we have developed, which will start asap next week.

We will be communicating with you daily from this point, so please keep monitoring your emails.

Although there will be a lot of information coming forward in the coming days, at the moment, I would ask parents to consider the following for now:

Establish routines and expectations at home:

- From the first day ISR implements its DLP, parents will need to establish routines and expectations. ISR encourages parents to set regular hours for their children's school work. We suggest students keep to the regular hours as much as possible, ready to start at 8am. Additionally, bedtime routines should be kept as they are currently. DO NOT allow students to start staying up later and sleeping in. Regular breaks, ensuring exercise, going outside are also important considerations when establishing and implementing these routines at home.

Define a physical space for your children's studying:

- Your children may have a regular place for completing homework or studying under normal circumstances, but this space may or may not be suitable for an extended period of time. We strongly encourage families to establish a space/location where their children will learn most of the time. Also, this space should be a public/family space, not in a child's bedroom. It needs to be a space that can be quiet and have a strong internet signal. Most importantly, it needs to be a space where parents are present to monitor their students learning to ensure that they are staying on task and not playing games and/or surfing the web and generally losing focus.

Ensure that your children have the necessary tools:

- Students in Secondary are all required to have their own device, so this should not be an issue. However, in Primary as the school currently provides the computers for students, parents will need to consider if their children have the



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necessary tool(s) to access a distance learning plan. Also, it is imperative that students have access to strong internet signals and sufficient bandwidth to access the necessary documents, videos, programs, etc.

Be mindful of your children's stress or worry:

- Parents need to remind themselves that their children are just that...children. In many cases, our students have not had to move to a distance learning plan before nor have lived through the external reasons causing its implementation, resulting in increased anxiety levels. It is imperative for parents to help their children manage the worry, anxiety, and range of emotions they may experience. Difficult though it may be, do your best not to transfer your stress or worry to your children.

At this time, I would also like to remind parents to only follow official communications from the school.

Kind regards,

Craig Williamson | Director