



International School Bangkok

Information about Novel Coronavirus Communication 4

Dear ISB Community,

We learned this morning that the parents of a Singapore American School (SAS) elementary school instructional assistant were diagnosed as having the coronavirus. Please see the message copied below that was sent to the SAS community from Mr. Tom Boasberg, SAS Superintendent (names redacted).

With respect to this development, SAS is closely following Singapore government practice and the medical advice of doctors from International SOS. (Please see below for this detailed information.)

Based on the information and guidance thus far, SAS does not see a meaningful risk to students and visitors to their school. The employee whose parents are confirmed cases is an elementary school employee, has exhibited no symptoms, has been on a precautionary leave of absence, and has not been in school since last Thursday (23rd January). SAS will continue to closely monitor the situation and keep all IASAS schools up to date.

We are currently hosting IASAS Swimming and Tennis and these competitions will continue as planned, as will the IASAS competitions at SAS and JIS. All IASAS schools are taking precautionary measures as detailed in our previous communications.

If parents have any questions or concerns, please let any of us know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Davies
Head of School
andrewd@isb.ac.th

Justin Alexander, High School Principal, justina@isb.ac.th

Usa Somboon, Headmistress, usasomboon@isb.ac.th

Mark Hevland, Director of Risk Management, markh@isb.ac.th



International School Bangkok

Message from SAS Head of School

Dear SAS Community Members,

We learned last night that the parents of one of our elementary school instructional assistants, (name deleted), who arrived on January 19 from Hubei Province, China to visit him, were diagnosed as having the coronavirus. Currently, they are both in stable condition in a Singapore hospital, and all of our thoughts and best wishes are with the instructional assistant and his family for their speedy recovery.

The ES instructional assistant works with our Chinese language classes, specifically supporting another teacher. He was in classrooms on January 20 to January 21. On Wednesday, January 22, he performed in the Chinese New Year staff show, and on Thursday, January 23 there were no classes for students.

Because of our directive that anyone with a visiting relative from Hubei not come to school, the instructional assistant has not returned to school this week. With his parents being diagnosed yesterday, he is now on mandatory home quarantine.

Based on the timeline of events, our medical advisors at International SOS have advised us that it is unlikely that instructional assistant's parents would have been infectious and the virus would have been transmitted to him prior to the Chinese New Year holiday weekend and even more unlikely that he could have transmitted it to any third party at that time. His parents, who arrived in Singapore on January 19, did not show any symptoms until this past weekend, and the instructional assistant currently is not showing any symptoms. Per government policy, he is now on home quarantine for at least two additional weeks.

Our medical advisors have said that it is extremely unlikely for the virus to survive beyond several days outside the body, so that the risk of transmission through physical spaces in our classrooms is extremely low. And, as noted above, the instructional assistant has not been in classrooms for nine days now. Nonetheless, we are taking additional precautionary measures to deep clean and disinfect any suspected touchpoints on campus before students re-enter those spaces.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child we encourage you to connect directly with your division principal.

We ask that you check your child's temperature every day in the morning and evening and look for possible symptoms. If you have any questions, please consult your medical doctor. Should you or any family member develop any flu-like symptoms, please notify the school immediately, and seek medical attention.

Most importantly, we want you to feel supported during this time. Please reach out to your child's principal, teacher, or counselor for guidance on how to discuss this with your child.

Best,

Tom Boasberg,
Superintendent