



International School Bangkok

Dear ISB Community,

The CoVID-19 situation in Thailand and the world continues to evolve. ISB is working to ensure that proper precautions are in place for our community while also doing everything possible to maintain quality learning and care for our students.

Important Updates

1. We will be asking every family to sign and submit a **self-declaration form** if anyone in their household has traveled to or transited through the high risk countries identified by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health (see current list below). The form and submission procedure will be emailed to families tomorrow.
2. To provide our teachers, administrators, and staff time to work through some of the operational aspects of the coming weeks, there will be **no school for students on Monday, March 2**. We will need time to process the self declaration forms, assist teachers with online learning plans, allow counselors time to address social/emotional issues, calibrate thermal scanners, and to prepare substitute teachers (we will have 20 plus faculty absent for two weeks).
3. ISB staff (who are not self quarantined) will come to work.
4. The countries of **Italy and Iran** have been added to the list of countries and territories on the government's high risk list.
5. Prominent in the news today is the importance of disclosure and honest reporting about travel history. The Thai Public Health Ministry will be launching special regulations shortly in accordance with the Communicable Disease Act of 2015.

Please be reminded:

Anyone who has traveled to China, Italy, Iran, Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam, or transited through an airport in these locations must self-quarantine for 14 days from their return to Bangkok. Please note the addition of Italy and Iran to this list of high risk areas.

For the next two weeks, ISB will extend the self-quarantine requirement to students and adults living in the same household as a person who has traveled to or transited



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through one of the areas included in the directive even if the student has not traveled to that location (close contact). During this time, ISB will be re-evaluating this practice in collaboration with government departments, other agencies and experts.

[Further information is available at the US Embassy and Consulate, Thailand.](#)

Here is some additional information about specific questions we have received:

Will the school be doing temperature checks? *Yes. According to the Ministry directive: "The school shall screen all teachers, educational personnel and students every day by measuring fever." We are working out the protocols for this and will communicate more about the process once the details are decided. All those entering campus will be screened.*

Will days away from school due to the quarantine be counted as absences on permanent records? *No. All students who are in self quarantine will be marked as "present".*

What provisions for online learning does ISB have in place? *ISB administration and teachers will be working to ensure that students who have to be self-quarantined continue to have meaningful learning. Division principals will share information on Monday 2nd March with specific information about learning for students who are self-quarantined.*

How do we calculate the 14 days for self-quarantine? *The day of arrival in Bangkok is day one, this applies also for arrivals before the date of the Ministry's announcement. On day 15, students, parents, and staff will have completed the quarantine period and may return to school. "...If arrived in Thailand on 24th February, 2020, then start counting day 1 on that day and finishing (14 days) on 8th March 2020 thus they can go to work or study on 9th March 2020."*

If you or a member of your household has transited through an airport in one of the areas included in this directive, the quarantine period would begin the day you departed that airport. For example, if you flew through Hong Kong



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on February 22 on your way to Europe, then returned to Bangkok via a location not on this list, your quarantine period would start February 23.

Families with **Mae Baans** should also consider them as part of the family and put quarantine and hygiene measures in place for them as well.

What does self-quarantine mean? The MoE letter states, “the traveler shall quarantine themselves at home...” The [CDC](#) notes: “...quarantine help[s] protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.”

ISB families should use this information and consider the purpose of a quarantine when making decisions about what they do, where they go, and with whom they interact during the period of quarantine. Other sources of information about self-quarantine can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

What documentation will be required for students, parents, and staff to enter campus? ISB will be asking all families to provide us with **a signed declaration of travel and close contact**. We will be sharing a document via our next communication. These forms must be submitted to the school prior to students returning to classes.

How does ISB determine the measures to be taken to address the safety of our students and staff? We utilize our Coronavirus Response Matrix [adapted from our Pandemic Response Matrix] that outlines the steps to be taken as the situation progresses. We consult with International SOS, regional medical experts and reference the WHO and CDC recommendations.

What preventative measures is ISB taking? We have increased the frequency of disinfection of classrooms and surfaces. We are also reminding students and staff of the importance of regular hand washing and proper hygiene through instruction and communication.



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ISB's Requirements for Our Community

- The government requires that anyone who has travelled to or transited through mainland China, Hong Kong, Italy, Iran, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam undertake a self-quarantine period of 2 weeks (14 Days) from their return date to Bangkok and not attend school or come on campus until the quarantine period has ended.
- For the next two weeks, ISB will extend the self-quarantine requirement to students and adults living in the same household as a person who has traveled to or TRANSITED through one of the areas included in the directive even if the student has not traveled to that location.
- All families, staff, and teachers must submit a signed self-declaration form with respect to recent travel to or transit through high risk areas.
- ISB also requires that parents check their children's temperature before they are sent to school and if a fever is detected to keep your child at home - CDC guideline is 38 celsius or more (100.4 fahrenheit). This also applies to all adults. ISB will also be conducting temperature checks on all people entering campus in compliance with the Ministry of Education directive.
- Children and adults who are unwell must not come to school - particularly those with fever or respiratory issues.

Communications

To help with communication we have created a page on our website linked [here](#).

We will continue to monitor the situation and should anything change in the coming days, we will let our community know right away. There may be additional mandates or changes that come from government agencies in the future.

As you look forward to the Songkran holiday, you may wish to consider these possibilities as you plan for travel. [The CDC has a source for travel health notices.](#)



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ISB is built upon a foundation of values that include integrity, responsibility, and care. We trust that our parents and staff have the health and wellbeing of our students at heart and will all do their part to help ISB comply with the mandates from the Ministry and the intent of these requirements to keep everyone well and safe.

Thank you for your understanding, care, and patience. As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact any one of us below.

Kind regards,

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