



# International School Bangkok

## Information About COVID-19 - Communication 24

Dear ISB Community,

Thank you very much for your support and cooperation through this difficult situation. We fully understand that this is a challenging time for everyone in our community.

We are checking in daily with our ISB grandparent and parent to let them know they are very much in our thoughts and to get updates on progress. I know that all of us in the ISB community send our very best wishes and can empathize with the stressful and uncertain situation our families are in.

### ISB Reaching Out

We know that a number of people in our community have concerns, questions and suggestions.

- On Tuesday 17th March, ISB administration will answer a number of **community questions virtually through video**. Please submit your questions using [this form](#) by Monday at 3:00pm. We will arrange them by the most to least frequent and answer as many as we can. We will then post the video online for our community to view later that day.
- Please know that you can also email any of us and we will get back to you as soon as possible. In addition, we are available to talk on the phone, Skype or Zoom, etc either individually or in small groups.
- We will hold a number of meetings when school starts to gather community feedback and answer any questions. More details to follow.
- You can find information and FAQs about ISB Virtual School on our [website here](#)
- We continue to add resources and information to our [COVID-19 Updates](#) page



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## Surveys

We are gathering Virtual School feedback from students (G4-12), parents, and teachers this weekend and will be carefully evaluating what is working and how we can grow and improve the virtual learning for our students. Yesterday, Friday 13th March, division principals shared surveys for parents and students in their weekly eNews. Your feedback is valuable and we ask that you take a few moments to reflect and complete the survey as soon as possible. We will be looking at this data to make adjustments to virtual school to best meet the needs of our students.

## Virtual Learning

We know that the move to ISB Virtual School has presented a challenge for parents, students and teachers and we are appreciative of all the hard work and commitment that everyone is showing to this process. We understand the difficulties it presents to parents and how the change in the learning environment requires a transition period for everyone. We also appreciate the feedback we are receiving from our community. We know that everyone is working hard to make this transition to virtual learning a success which reiterates the key strength of our school. We are really grateful for all that you are doing.

An online learning environment is a very different experience and involves a different style of engagement. It also requires an increased reliance on technology and an expanded skill set of how to use this technology. We are fortunate to have ample online platforms and resources available to us at ISB and our teachers and students are well-versed in using them.

The technology available today makes meaningful and engaging virtual learning possible, but it also means an increase in the amount of screen time. It is important to help students achieve our mission point of a healthy, active, balanced life, especially during this unprecedented time. Please pay attention to this to ensure students get some healthy balance.

Our teachers have been working very diligently to support students virtually and have shown creativity, adaptability, flexibility and commitment to the development of meaningful learning for our students. Creating these virtual learning opportunities is more involved and demanding than planning for a typical school day and we commend and thank our teachers for the incredible work they are doing.

We know all our parents are working especially hard too.



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We are conducting surveys to get feedback from parents, students and teachers. This will provide us with concrete information about what we can do to make the virtual learning experience even better for our students and manageable for our parents and teachers.

We feel it is important to mention that as we see exceptional measures being taken in the face of the COVID-19 situation globally, we need to be prepared for every outcome. Having a sustainable and effective virtual learning program for students going forward is a priority.

## **School Reopening**

School will reopen in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education. At this stage, we are planning for Monday, March 23rd as this will be the 17th calendar day since school closed. We will be in touch next week with respect to the confirmation of our opening date procedures.

We will be sending an online form for families to complete next week again confirming that no household member has visited or transited through the following countries as identified by the Ministry of Public Health in the 14 days prior to 23rd March.

## **MoPH Directives & Self Quarantine Lists**

The Ministry of Education continues to require anyone traveling from or transiting through any country on the lists below, or anyone having close contact (living in the same household) with people coming from any of these locations, to self-quarantine for 14 days (per OPEC directives dated 24th Feb, 2 March, and 6th March, MoE directives dated 25 Feb., 28 Feb.). The lists below were **updated on 13th March**:



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## **Disease Infected Zones**

- The People's Republic of China and the Special Administrative Regions of Macau and Hong Kong
- The Republic of Korea
- The Republic of Italy
- The Islamic Republic of Iran

## **Countries with ongoing transmission**

- The French Republic
- Spain
- United States of America
- Switzerland
- Norway
- Japan (list of cities in Japan: Hokkaido, Tokyo, Aichi, Wakayama, Kanagawa, Chiba, Okinawa, Kyoto, Osaka)
- Denmark
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Great Britain
- Germany

Please note that a number of countries have been added (and some removed) and that others may be included on these lists in the coming days.

## **Future Travel**

With the Songkran Break next month, it is strongly suggested that careful consideration be given to travel plans to avoid self-quarantine and the safety and well-being of our community. Please monitor the changing global situation, travel advisories, and the lists of high risk countries maintained by the Ministry of Public Health.

Looking further ahead, we would strongly suggest that families book flexible tickets for summer travel as both the global and the local situations are difficult to predict.

Many would have seen that the WHO has now labeled the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. It is uncertain the global impact that this decision will have but we remain in conversation with the necessary government bodies and advisors to understand the implications for our school.



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## Concluding Comments

Again, we would like to express our deep appreciation to the ISB faculty who have shown great commitment to ensure our students are learning and very much in touch with the school. We are also very appreciative of all that our parents are doing to help. In tough times, it really does take all of us.

All of the previous communications we have sent are housed on a page on our website linked [here](#).

We want to thank you again for all you are doing to work with us through this uncertain time. Please be sure to fill out the surveys sent yesterday (Friday) by divisions to ensure that we can best support you and your children.

Kind regards,

Andy

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