



International School Bangkok

Information about COVID-19 (Communication 35)

Dear ISB Community,

The Minister of Education announced on Tuesday that the opening of Thai schools has been delayed from the scheduled 16 May to 1 July.

A communication published today by the Ministry of Education states, "international private schools with different school term dates are permitted to start the school semester immediately, providing they are able to offer instructional models and methodologies in line with the State of Emergency as declared in the area where each school is located." Currently, in Nonthaburi province, we are required under the State of Emergency provisions to remain closed until April 30 (at least) and provide online learning. We are in contact with the Nonthaburi authorities and will update the community when we know more.

Looking Ahead to August 2020

As we look toward August we have been planning for different scenarios for some time now. Our hope is that we can open as normal on 10th August.

We are also making plans to open with Virtual School if needed with a view to being adaptable based on where our families are located. In practical terms, this could mean operating Virtual School with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning to take into account different time zones. Additionally, it is possible that the start of school is delayed and the 2020/21 calendar adjusted accordingly. In summary, we are assessing various scenarios and will make a decision when we have a better understanding of the situation in Thailand and the world at that time. In all probability, this will be a July decision.

ISB Virtual School

On the learning front, right now all of our energies are focused on providing the best online learning possible for our students. While the school was prepared for a short period of Virtual School, for the longer term we have now evaluated the needs of our students, researched effective practices for virtual learning, and adjusted what we do to best meet the learning needs of our students. We have an exemplary faculty at ISB and their professionalism and dedication will ensure that quality teaching and learning take place and that the social/emotional needs of our students are met.



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The Learning Design Center, Learning Coaches, Director of Student Support and the IT Department are all providing significant support for our faculty.

One of the most important considerations for our students right now is the maintenance of relationships and connections with their teachers and friends. As our teachers continue to develop online learning, they are also considering and including more opportunities for students to see one another and interact virtually.

Additionally, we are looking at ways to bring the other fun facets of school, such as activities and celebrations, to our communities as well.

Social and emotional welfare of our students

Everyone is responding to the COVID-19 crisis differently. We foresee the social/emotional wellbeing of our students becoming a greater need the longer this situation lasts. Our counselors, school psychologists, teachers and administrators stand ready to provide support to all of our families. We have a great deal of expertise at ISB and we want our students and parents to know that we are all available to help. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the counselors, teachers, or to your division administration. A few of our counselors talk more to this topic and offer some helpful advice in this [video interview](#).

Courses and Classes for 2020/21

As we do every year at this time, we are preparing for the 2020/21 school year. MS and HS students have completed course registrations and schedules/class lists are currently being created. In ES, the planning process for next year has also begun. With this in mind, and taking into account the uncertainty we are all facing, it is vital that parents confirm with us as soon as possible if they will be returning to ISB next school year so that accurate class building can occur and teachers can be assigned. You can complete and update the re-enrollment survey in the [ISB Parent Portal](#).

Tuition 2020/21

A communication was sent to parents this morning with more information about re-enrollment and school fees for next year. Given the situation and the impact on some of our families there will be no tuition increase for next school year. The communication also provided refund details for ES lunches, CAO activities, GCW trips and other areas where we can provide refunds. If you are expecting difficulties



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with next year's tuition fee payments, please contact Marc de Vries (marcd@isb.ac.th) who will work with you to try and find a solution.

Reach out to us

We understand that the global impact of COVID-19 will affect each of our families differently. It is certainly impacting us as a school and as a community right now, and the long term implications of COVID-19 remain to be seen. Please know we want to work with you to support you. We are open to conversations on an individual basis or virtual group meetings.

Important Reminders

- Should someone in your household (or someone you have come into close contact with) test positive for COVID-19, please notify the school immediately
- Should your family choose to temporarily leave Thailand, we ask that you complete the survey that is linked in the [Parent Portal](#).
- Please be reminded of the [self-quarantine requirements](#) in place for those who have traveled to countries as specified by the [Ministry of Public Health](#).
- This is a reminder that we have a responsibility to fellow members of our ISB, Nichada and global community to practice [social and physical distancing](#) at this time.

Kind regards.

Andy

School Contact Information

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Counselors and School Psychologists

High School Counselors:

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School Psychologists:

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Community Activities Office:

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Admissions Office:

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