



# International School Bangkok

## Information about COVID-19: Potential Return to Campus (Communication 42)

Dear ISB Community,

We are hopeful that we will be able to welcome students back on campus on 8 - 11 June - should government permission be granted this week.

The focus of this reopening would be on meeting the social-emotional needs of students, providing an opportunity for closure, reconnecting students with their friends and teachers, enabling them to say goodbye to departing friends, and completing some end of year procedures.

Very importantly, with significantly fewer students on campus each day, staggered start and end times & abbreviated schedules, we would be able to introduce our COVID-19 safety procedures in a managed and careful way.

This would also provide an opportunity for us to orient students to some of these new safety procedures that they will see when they return in August.

Please know that attendance is voluntary and that each student (on a voluntary basis) would come on campus once only for a shortened day.

### Required Information Before Schools Starts - IMPORTANT

As we prepare for a possible reopening we ask that all parents follow the directions below:

1. You will receive a survey from ISB today (27th May) by email from [communications.isb.ac.th](mailto:communications.isb.ac.th). Please complete this survey by 6:00pm on Sunday 31st May confirming whether or not your child/children will be returning to school for the designated day and times on June 8-11, 2020.
2. This survey will also require you to complete a self declaration that confirms no one in your household has been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19 in the past 21 days, has travelled overseas in the past 14 days, and other healthCOVID-19 related information. Additionally the survey asks for other details, including transportation requests for June 8-11.
3. Read all of the safety and procedural information linked [here](#) as well as the text below.



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## **Are international schools able to open?**

We still do not have official confirmation that international schools will be able to open in June, but we are aware that the Office of the Private Education Commission (OPEC) has presented a proposal to the Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) and it will be considered this week. The Board of Trustees has given approval to open should we be able.

## **Is it safe to open school?**

We believe that it is safe to open school. The present COVID-19 situation in Thailand is encouraging with very few daily cases, 57 reported fatalities thus far, and less than 60 people currently recovering in hospital. That said, we do recognize that an increase of infections is possible and we are closely following the situation and remaining regularly in touch with our safety advisors.

Our sources at embassies and major health organizations support the view that Thailand's preparedness has been strong and that the data provided is reliable.

We understand that some parents in our community may not wish to send their children to school in June. Please know there will be no one counted absent if they do not attend school on campus June 8-11.

## **What health and safety measures will be in place?**

The safety of our students, staff and community is our paramount concern and to this end we have been preparing for the safe reopening of campus based on research and expert advice.

Our Director of Risk Management (Mark Hevland), in conjunction with our Crisis Management Team, has prepared a comprehensive and detailed action plan for the safe reopening of school. This plan is being reviewed by two safety consultancies at Control Risks (Singapore) and Clearpath Emergency Planning Management (USA). The US Embassy's Regional Security Office has also visited the campus to view facilities, equipment and go over our action plan to safely open campus.

Please click [here](#) to view our safety procedures for the reopening of campus.



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Please also view this [presentation](#) that was given to the Board and community last week as this explains the main safety provisions (note that this presentation was made with an August 10th 2020 start in mind so a few aspects will be different for a June opening).

Counselors and School Psychologists will be available for students should we open our campus in June. As a school we are also developing strategies to support the social/emotional wellbeing of all students upon our return to campus in August.

### What will the schedules look like for June 8-11?

- There will be a shortened school day with minimal movement around campus for students
- No lunch will be served and students will be required to bring snacks from home
- Each student will have the opportunity to come once to campus
- There will be a maximum of around 45% of students allowed to come on campus each day (the actual percentage will likely be less as some students are overseas and we anticipate a number of families will elect to keep their children at home)
- There will be no activities or athletics
- June 12th will still be the last day of school with final virtual assemblies etc held in the morning but no students will be on campus

Campus hours by division/grade level will be as follows:

<b>Elementary School Grades PreK/K (8-9 June) 8 June - A-L Surnames 9 June - M-Z Surnames</b>	<b>Elementary School Grades 1-5 (8-9 June) 8 June - A-L Surnames 9 June - M-Z Surnames</b>	<b>Middle School Grades 6-8 (9-11 June) 9 June - Grade 8 10 June - Grade 7 11 June - Grade 6</b>	<b>High School Grades 9-11 (10-11 June) 10 June - A-L Surnames 11 June - M-Z Surnames</b>
<b>Hours: 8:30 - 10:30</b>	<b>Hours: 8:10 - 11:20</b>	<b>Hours: 8:00 - 11:30</b>	<b>Hours: 11:00 - 3:00</b>
Arrival: 8:20am	Arrival: 8:00am (G 4-5) Arrival: 8:10am (G 1-3)	Arrival: 7:50am	Arrival: 10:50am
Dismissal: 10:30am	Dismissal: 11:20am	Dismissal: 11:30am	Dismissal: 3:00pm
Bus: 10:40am	Bus: 11:40am	Bus: 11:40am	Bus: 3:10pm
Elementary School Entrance	Elementary School Entrance	Entrance next to Business Office	Entrance next to Business Office



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## **What learning provisions will we make for those students not at school?**

Some students will not be at school for schedule reasons, parent choice, or because they are overseas. Next week, principals will follow up with details for expectations for virtual learning which will be more asynchronous in nature.

## **What are the next steps?**

1. We will await the government decision this week as to whether or not international schools can open in June.
2. Should the approval be given, based on the timeline & regulations, we will determine if and when we will be open. We are aiming for 8-11 June.
3. We are surveying the community this week to find out which students will potentially be returning to campus.
4. This survey will also ask parents to complete a self declaration form (see email today from [communications@isb.ac.th](mailto:communications@isb.ac.th)) confirming that:
  - a. No household member has had contact with a person infected with COVID-19 in the last 21 days
  - b. No household member has current symptoms
  - c. No household member has recently travelled from overseas (repatriated) in the last 14 days
5. Class lists and bus schedules will then be developed

## **Chosen Date of Opening**

We have chosen to open on June 8th (should we be given permission) as we still do not have confirmation that we can reopen campus, or the final official safety regulations. We want to ensure that we are as well prepared as possible so that students have a supportive, smooth transition back on campus. It is important that our safety measures and preparations are not rushed and that our reopening is as safe as possible.

Please reach out if you have any questions. We are also happy to talk with you via Zoom or by phone.

All the best,

Andy



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## School Contact Information

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### Finance:

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### Divisional Principals:

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Mark Hevland (Director of Risk Management) - [markh@isb.ac.th](mailto:markh@isb.ac.th)

## Counselors and School Psychologists

### High School Counselors:

- Kevin Callahan - [kevinc@isb.ac.th](mailto:kevinc@isb.ac.th)
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### High School College Counselors:

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- Doug Williamson - [douglasw@isb.ac.th](mailto:douglasw@isb.ac.th)



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School Psychologists:

- Matt Johnson (ES) - [matthewj@isb.ac.th](mailto:matthewj@isb.ac.th)
- Ryan Ruhl (MS/HS)- [ryanr@isb.ac.th](mailto:ryanr@isb.ac.th)

Government Liaison:

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Community Activities Office:

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