

Return to School Policy for ISD Primary



Version 5 February 2021

Table of Contents

Return to school from 8 February 2021	3
General measures.....	3
Organisation of returning to school	4
Cohorts	4
PE and outside activities.....	5
Timings for drop off and pick up	5
Drop off and pick up schedule.....	6
Guidelines for drop off.....	6
Guidelines for pick up	7
In case of a positive test	7
Covering of absent staff.....	7
Hygiene and ventilation	8
When are children not allowed in school?	8
Testing of children <12 is urgently advised when:	9
Quarantine after traveling back to the Netherlands	9

Return to school from 8 February 2021

International School Delft will re-open, after a lockdown of nearly 7 weeks, from 8 February 2021. The Dutch government announced that the primary schools in the Netherlands will all open from this date.

We understand that there is a lot of concern and anxiety about this news. As staff we also experience that. Nevertheless, we commit ourselves to welcoming the children back in school in the safest way possible.

In this plan we will elaborate the measures that we are putting in place to ensure this safety.

The measures below are partly determined by the protocols of the government but we have also added elements that we feel are crucial for a safe return to school.

It has been almost 7 weeks since we children were at school. Next week we will be spending time on the wellbeing of the children and social interaction in classes as well as establishing the rules, guidelines and measures that we are going to be working with.

In the meantime, lessons will mostly take place as usual.

We will explain how we will be organising this in this document.

General measures

The PO-Raad (Dutch national educational organisation), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Health, published a new protocol for re-opening the schools. This protocol contains guidelines for safety measures and hygienic routines in primary schools.

The main guidelines of this policy are:

- All children go back to school from 8 February; online learning will not be provided anymore.
- Children do not have to keep 1.5 m away from each other.
- Children and adults keep 1.5 m away from each other as much as possible.
- Between adults 1.5 m distance should always be maintained. (Unless in case of emergencies or urgent matters)
- Parents are not allowed on the playground or in the school building (exception is the EY pick up on the playground).
- The school takes hygienic measures (washing hands regularly, cleaning materials)

Considerations before coming to school:

- Stay at home when complaints occur.
- All staff, students and others in school should be complaint free to come into the school building or stay at home if they are not. A health checklist is available for a personal check.
- All staff, students and others in school **must** stay home if a person in their household has mild Covid complaints **and** fever (38 degrees and over) or respiratory problems.

Organisation of returning to school

The Coronavirus is transferred mostly through close contact between people. The latest research implies that children <12 play less of a role in the spread of the virus than children >12 and adults. This seems to be the case with the British variant of the virus as well. Although children spread this variant more than the 'classic' variant. The latest publication on this comes from the research that has been done in December/January around a school in Lansingerland.

A big part of our plan and protocol is committed to limiting contact between children and adults in and around the school. According to the guidelines we will use 'cohorts' within the school to minimise that contact.

Cohorts

It is important for children to stay with their class at all times to minimise contact with other groups of children and adults. Our aim is to keep the children of a cohort away from any contact with children or teachers from other classes. This requires a strict schedule for all our activities.

We are creating cohorts with single classes and other members of staff who will become part of this cohort.

We want to minimise the movement of staff and children around the school and lessen the interaction between children from different classes and specialist teachers (EAL, SEN, Dutch, Music, PE). The specialist teachers and TA's will be assigned to a class. They will be part of a cohort which they can move within. The class teacher is still responsible for the class but can be supported by the member of staff assigned to them where possible. This additional staff member will do their own subject or support lessons online, whether it is 1-1, small groups or whole classes. They will do this from an area that is directly connected to the class they are assigned to.

An example of a cohort could be Ms. Brittany/ Ms. Kristi and Ms. Renu.

Working with these cohorts is very important and crucial to ensure the safety of children, staff and your families.

We strongly advise you to take the class cohorts in consideration when arranging playdates and after school activities with other children and/or families.

PE and outside activities

PE will consist of short daily lessons of 20-25 mins on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This is also the time for break/exercise for the children. Mr. Sytse will do the activities on the playground with 1 class outside at a time.

9.30- 9.50am	1/2A
9.55- 10.15am	1/2B
10.20- 10.40am	1/2C
10.45- 11.05am	3A
1.10- 11.30am	3B
11.35- 11.55am	4
12.15- 12.35pm	5A
12.40- 1.00pm	5B
1.05- 1.25pm	6
1.30-1.50pm	7

To keep the children active, we encourage activities around the TU Delft campus. Classes can go for a walk around the campus with their own cohort. If the PE activity is scheduled in the morning, the other activity is scheduled in the afternoon and vice versa.

Timings for drop off and pick up

Children will be with their own group for the entire day, in their own classroom. All activities and lessons happen there. We have shifted beginning and ending timings to make sure the contact between children and parents amongst each other is minimized. Please make sure that you are aware of the beginning and ending timings according to the schedule below.

Children need to be dropped off and picked up by 1 parent. If possible and age appropriate, children can come to school by themselves (please inform the teacher about this).

If siblings are in different time slots; when dropping off children must wait outside or in the car for their time slot to go in.

When picking up; children will go outside within their time slot. Siblings will not go out together. Parents need to be present at the ending time of their youngest and wait for the time slot of their oldest. Please wear a face mask and keep distance from others when you drop off and pick up your children.

Please pay attention to the adjusted beginning and ending timings. To ensure the safety of the children and staff, we cannot make any exceptions to this schedule.

Drop off and pick up schedule

	Drop off	Pick up
1/2	8.15-8.25am (Entry children through playground; parents drop off children at the gate where staff member will direct children in)	2.15pm (12.15 on Wed and 12.30 on Fri) (Pick up on playground- parents need to wear face masks and keep distance from each other)
3	8.25-8.35am	2:20 (12.20 on Wed)
4	8.25-8.35am	2:20 (12.20 on Wed)
5	8.35-8.45am	2:30 (12.30 on Wed)
6	8.35-8.45am	2:30 (12.30 on Wed)
7	8.35-8.45am	2:30 (12.30 on Wed)

Guidelines for drop off

- The time slots are according to the schedule above.
- We urgently ask parents to stick to the timings from the 'drop off and pick up schedule'.
- We urgently advise parents to park further away from school and then walk or come by bicycle as much as possible. There are parking spaces available around the TU campus within a 5 min walk from the school.
- Use the 'U-street' in our parking area as a 'kiss and ride' area. You should drop children off at the front door and immediately drive off. Make sure your children can get out of the car with their belongings, parents should stay in the car as much as possible. Always follow instructions from staff.
- Children of Early Years will be guided in by staff on the playground. Parents drop their children off at the gate of the playground. Keep distance from each other.
- Children of PYP 3- 7 go in through the front door at the assigned times and immediately go to the class themselves. The class teacher will be there to welcome them.
- The social distancing rules still apply around the school. Please keep your distance from the front door, teachers and other parents. Please leave the school area as soon as possible for safety reasons.

Guidelines for pick up

- Pick up is according to the schedule above. We need to be very strict on the time slots for safety reasons and for the traffic flow.
- All children must go home immediately after school. The only exception is for children that are going to the emergency after school care.
- We urgently advise parents to park further from school and then walk or come by bicycle as much as possible. There are parking spaces available around the TU campus within a 5 min walk from the school.
- The children line up at the front door with their own class. We will assign different areas to the class teachers.
- We use the 'U-street' in our parking area as a 'kiss and ride' area. The area at the front door is only for a quick pick up and immediate drive off. Children will go into the car by themselves as much as possible. Parents should stay in the car as much as possible. Always follow instructions from staff.

In case of a positive test

Despite of the measures in this protocol there is still a chance that someone at school can test positive. If a child or adult of a cohort tests positive, the whole cohort needs to quarantine. (If a child(ren) has (a) sibling(s) in a different cohort, the sibling can come to school except if the child is tested positive himself. In this case, the whole family needs to quarantine).

All children and staff of the cohort need to test as quickly as possible through the GGD.

When after 5 days a second test is completed with a negative result, children and staff can come back to school. In case parents do not choose to test their children, a 10-day quarantine after the last contact at school is mandatory. During this process, school will be advised by the GGD. Communication will happen with privacy of all involved taken in account.

In case physical learning in school is not possible because of the situation, we will switch to online learning as soon as possible.

Covering of absent staff

If a class teacher is absent, he/ she will be covered by the other staff member in the cohort. If no staff member in that cohort can cover, the class will be sent home and we will organise online learning for this group if the teacher is able to do this.

Hygiene and ventilation

Hygiene measures and good ventilation are crucial for the safety of children in school. We use the climate control system of the TU in our building. This system makes sure the air is properly ventilated. The air quality and temperature are monitored and regulated by the TU Delft. Our system has been checked this week to ensure all systems work properly.

Personal hygiene is very important. We have regular timings during the day that children wash their hands, e.g., after outside play or before snack/lunch.

Our school building is cleaned daily by the cleaning company Asito. Extra daily cleaning will be done by our concierge.

Hygiene materials such as hand gels, paper towels, cleaning wipes will be available in school.

Educational materials, devices, desk, toys and other materials will be cleaned regularly.

When are children not allowed in school?

Children are not allowed in school when they show **any symptoms** that could be related to Covid-19 complaints. This includes cold symptoms like running nose, sore throat, structural sneezing/coughing.

We will ask parents to take their children home as soon as possible if we notice symptoms. Children will be quarantined from their cohort until parents pick them up.

Children with allergies that show the symptoms above (only when the symptoms are clearly related to allergies), are allowed in school. A doctor's statement can be requested.

Children must stay at home if they are getting tested or awaiting test results.

Children must stay at home if they are a contact of a confirmed Covid 19 infection.

Children are not allowed in school if someone within the household has mild complaints that could be related to Covid-19 complaints **and** has fever or respiratory complaints.

Children must stay at home if someone in the household has a confirmed Covid-19 infection. The child(ren) stays at home for a quarantine period of 5 days. If the positive person does not develop any complaints within those 5 days, the child can come to school. If the positive person develops complaints, the child will stay home for 10 days after the last contact. From day 5 the child can be tested. After a negative test, the quarantine is lifted.

Testing of children <12 is urgently advised when:

- Complaints like running nose, sore throat, coughing/sneezing **and** fever or respiratory complaints occur **or** if the child develops another kind of severe illness.
- When a source contact research is conducted.
- The child is part of an outbreak research.
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Children that are being tested must stay at home until the results are received.

Quarantine after traveling back to the Netherlands

When families are traveling back from a country that is marked as an orange or red country, or from a country that switches from yellow to orange during the stay, the whole family should quarantine for 10 days. A negative test on arrival is not a replacement for the 10-day quarantine.