



**Private Education Sector**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**REF:** PE/K12E2020/004

**DATE:** 10 August 2020

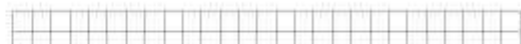
**Subject: Important Update on Private Schools Reopening Plans**

Dear Principals,

We hope you have been able to take some time off during this summer and to reflect on your achievement of delivering education in such unprecedented times.

We appreciate your interaction with us and with parents as you are planning your reopening and would like to touch-base on a few key items to ensure we are aligned.

- Our communication with regards to the physical reopening of schools was intended to ensure our preparedness as an education sector. **The confirmation for the physical reopening of schools on 30 August 2020 has yet to be made by the relevant authorities;** we expect that this will be announced in the coming weeks on a federal level through the media channels. This will be followed by communication from ADEK. Schools need to remain flexible and be able to provide full distance learning at any given point.
- We appreciate that giving the parents options to choose between a physical return to school and distance learning can add complications to scheduling. We fully support the right for schools to ask for the parents' commitment on their chosen option, however we would like the schools to give some flexibility for change during the first two weeks after the reopening.
- We have been in continuous talks and collaboration with the immigration authorities to ease the entry of school staff into the country. **Staff with valid residency visas no longer need to register on the ICA website if landing in Abu Dhabi.**





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- Staff arriving from abroad will need to self-isolate for 14 days in compliance with the health regulations, regardless of the number of COVID tests taken. Those staff are not allowed into the school campus under any circumstances.
- Additionally, the previous communication around only 20% of staff being in school can now be relaxed, assuming schools are fully compliant with the health and safety regulations.
- We are working with the health authorities to determine the policies around testing and we will be releasing guidelines soon covering who will bear the costs of testing, which ages need to be tested, what kind of test will be mandatory, the timing etc. At this point we cannot confirm the procedures, but we can confirm that because of the logistical issues around testing, we will require a phased reopening of schools i.e. some grades will start before others. We appreciate that this might affect your existing plans for phasing, we will work together to minimize the effects.
- Compliance as I am sure you will appreciate will take a very different route should the schools physically reopen. We will be visiting schools more often and we will be taking swift action to correct any compliance issues; the health and safety of your staff, the students and our community is as always, our utmost priority.

We remain at your disposal, should you have any queries, need advice or help. You can reach us on 056-3771994, please call personally from your mobile to ensure the fastest response. School administrators can continue to contact us on [covid19.response@adek.gov.ae](mailto:covid19.response@adek.gov.ae).

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation,

ADEK

