



Covid-19 Prevention Policy

(as directed by the Croatian Department for Public Health)

When to Stay at Home

No persons, children or adults, including students, teachers, staff, parents, or visitors, should enter the school building under any of the following circumstances:

- If they have any symptoms of Covid-19 (elevated temperature, coughing, difficulty breathing, lack of sense of smell or taste, sore throat, diarrhea, or vomiting).
- If they are currently under a self-isolation order.
- If they are confirmed via testing as having Covid-19.

Visitor Restrictions during Covid-19

The Croatian Department for Public health mandates that visitors to the school must be minimized. This mandate applies to parents of enrolled students as well as those outside the school community.

- We kindly ask that everyone attempts to first resolve all matters via email or phone to the greatest extent possible to facilitate the safety of our students and staff.
- All in-school meetings for visitors and parents must be scheduled and approved in advance.
- Unannounced visitors (including parents) will not be allowed to enter the school.

General Rules

- Social distancing should be practiced at all times when feasible.
- Proper hand-washing technique should be applied as appropriate, and is particularly encouraged before arrival at the school and before meals.
- No more than 2 students may be in each restroom at any given time, in order to maintain proper social distancing.
- No sharing of food, utensils, plates, cups, etc... is allowed.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home each day to have water to drink at their desks.
- Masks must be used in accordance with the specific mask guidelines below.

Mask Guidance

PYP Students

- The Croatian Department for Public Health recommends that all PYP-aged students in school classrooms **not be required to** wear masks during the course of regular learning activities.
- All PYP-aged students **must bring a mask to school** to keep in their cubbies for use should the need arise for masking during any external trips or activities where they may be required.

MYP Students

- The Croatian Department for Public Health recommends that all MYP-aged students in the classroom **should wear masks whenever social distancing is not possible.**
- All MYP students must bring a mask to school everyday and keep it available/nearby (e.g. on their wrist or desk) at all times.
- **MYP Students must be prepared to wear their masks under the following circumstances:**
 - Anytime they are within 1.5 meters of any other student or adult in the classroom.
 - Anytime they are in the hallways, stairwells, or other common areas in the building, either while traveling between classes or engaged in other activities.
 - While traveling to or from school on public transportation, or in any other situation where proper social distancing is unable to be maintained or the wearing of masks is required by Covid-19 guidance.

Teachers and Staff

- Masks must be worn inside the classroom by teachers and staff whenever they are not able to practice appropriate social distancing with students or other adults.
- Masks must be worn in the stairwells and while traveling through public areas of the school building.

Visitors and Parents

- All outside visitors, including parents, must wear masks at all times.

Masks must always be properly worn to cover both the nose and mouth. Medical exemptions from wearing a mask must be provided to the school and confirmed by a family medical doctor in the Republic of Croatia.

Temperature Measurement

Students and Families

- Parents are asked to monitor the health of their students and family members. Covid-19 symptoms to check for are elevated temperature, coughing, difficulty breathing, lack of sense of smell or taste, sore throat, diarrhea, or vomiting.
- Parents should occasionally measure the temperature of their students at home, especially if they see any indication that the student may be ill. In the event of an elevated temperature, students should not attend school and parents should send an email to notify the school office of the absence and elevated temperature immediately.
- Students already in school who are observed or suspected to have any of these symptoms may have their temperature measurement taken by a staff member. Students displaying an elevated temperature reading will need to be picked up from school as soon as possible.

Teachers and Staff Members

- The Croatian Department of Public Health requires that all teachers and staff members measure their temperature daily before reporting to work.
- Staff members who present the school administration with evidence of Covid-19 vaccination (EU Digital Covid Certificate) or medically documented recovery from Covid-19 within the last 9 months are exempt from this temperature self-monitoring requirement, as recommended by the Croatian Department of Public Health.
- No staff member with an elevated temperature should attend work, and should notify the school office of their absence immediately.

Visitors and Parents

- All visitors to the building must have their temperature measured and recorded along with their names in the visitors' log before admittance to the school.
- Visitors without a pre-approved appointment will not be admitted into the school premises.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- All surfaces and equipment must be properly cleaned and disinfected at the start and end of the school day.
- All shared laptops, tools, or school supplies should be washed/disinfected before and after use by each student.
- Disinfection of hands and surfaces should be undertaken at appropriate intervals, particularly by MYP students and adults, and especially during arrival at school, before and after use of shared equipment, and before and after meals.

Collaboration and Group Work

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) defines collaboration and group work as central to both the IB PYP and IB MYP programs. Specific steps have been taken in order to support this IB program requirement, while still maintaining Covid-19 protection standards for students.

- PYP students have been assigned to dedicated classroom spaces, and class cohorts have been capped at 8 students. This will allow them to work collaboratively with other students while minimizing their Covid-19 risk.
- MYP schedules, classroom assignments, and teaching practices have been developed in accordance with recommendations provided by the Croatian Department for Public Health.
- MYP students will be grouped into assigned project/collaboration/working groups (referred to as “learning cells”). Learning cells will be given assigned seats in each classroom, which will remain the same across different activities and subject areas.
 - Learning cells function as a single “unit” within the classroom, and may undertake collaborative learning activities together to support their education.
 - In the event that an individual student in a particular learning cell develops symptoms of Covid-19, all students in that learning cell are recommended to stay home and self-monitor for an appropriate length of time.
 - Learning cell assignments will be rotated periodically to allow students to form new social connections and gain exposure to new ideas and perspectives from their peers.
 - Individual learning cells must maintain appropriate social distancing from each other at all times in the classroom.