

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ZANZIBAR
School Re-Opening Guidelines
August 2020



NURTURE, EMPOWER, LEAD

ISZ RE-OPENING PROCEDURES for August 20, 2020

While the current Corona pandemic has brought a number of challenges to our community, we remain firmly committed to providing the best possible educational services in Zanzibar. The re-opening of school with face-to-face interaction is central to this goal. We firmly believe that as a community we can work together in a way that prioritizes the safety and security of our students and staff while at the same time delivering high quality learning and instruction.

For the duration of the pandemic, ISZ will follow all Zanzibar government rules & regulations concerning private schools. With all local schools back in session, **ISZ will open its doors as planned on August 20th, 2020.**

We are aware that the situation in Zanzibar may change, as does the information available to us. Consequently, our planning is flexible so as to be able to adapt to new situations as they develop. Over the next few months, some precautionary measures may be phased out, but it is also possible that we have to reinstate more strict measures depending on how the pandemic unfolds.

The Board of Trustees and administration are regularly consulting with health experts within the local community, Tanzania/Zanzibar Health Services, the WHO and UNICEF. We are also in touch with other international schools in the region (AISA) and monitor “best practice” recommendations at each stage. The measures we take during Covid-19 are carefully determined based on the conditions prevailing in Zanzibar at the time.

The Board of Trustees and Administration met with health experts on August 4, 2020, to discuss the current situation in Zanzibar. **The panel of experts was unanimous in their assessment of the situation in that the current risk level is moderate to low.** Based on the recommendations of these health experts, the administration of the school has decided to open the school at a Level 2 Protocol.

We are calling on all members of the ISZ community to stay connected and informed and to take personal responsibility in maintaining a healthy community. Navigating these challenging times cannot be the task or responsibility of one person or group of persons alone. As always, the success of our community relies on all members working together for the benefit of our children.

ISZ COVID-19 DE-ESCALATION PROTOCOL

LEVEL	GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS	CAMPUS ACCESS	LEARNING PROGRAM	PERSONNEL
Level 3 School Closure	Government decree Zanzibar-wide school closures; Travel ban to and from Zanzibar in place	No students are permitted on campus; Staff may work from their classrooms; Parents may pick up or drop off materials; Office personnel and admin are available during office hours	Full virtual learning program in place	Staff works remotely from home (some staff may choose to leave Zanzibar)
Level 2 School re-opening with specific Covid-19 measures in place	Government has lifted school closure decree; International travel ban lifted with some restrictions still in place	Students and staff allowed back on campus; (see below); Hygiene and social distancing measures in place (see below)	On site learning with face-to-face classes; After school activities and off campus trips are permitted if safety precautions can be met	Staff is back on campus; Teachers who left Zanzibar are required to return
Level 1 Return to normal school operations	No government regulations concerning school; No quarantine regulations	Campus is open to all community members; Standard hygiene measures in place	Regular face-to-face instruction; Off campus trips are permitted	All staff physically present

DETAILS OF LEVEL 2 PROTOCOL

At the beginning of the year, all staff and students will receive training on Hygiene & Social Distancing measures at school.

WHO MAY ENTER THE SCHOOL CAMPUS?

Any ISZ student who is healthy and in whose family there have been no symptoms of Covid-19 is welcome back to school.

- Every child and staff member entering the ISZ campus will have their temperature measured at the gate. Only children and staff who do not have an elevated temperature will be allowed on campus. The normal body temperature may vary depending on age, time of day, activity and method of measuring and typically ranges between 36.5 and 37.5 degrees Celsius. If the temperature reaches 38 degrees, students/adults will not be admitted on campus. We encourage parents to measure the temperature at home before coming to school.
- When entering a classroom, students and staff will follow hygiene procedures (wash or sanitize hands and put on a mask if in the designated age group; see below).
- When first reopening the school, parents should not come on campus but should bring their child(ren) to the gate and wait until the temperature has been measured. Parents of Early Years students may enter the front gate after having their temperature measured and proceed to the Early Years gate where they will drop off their child(ren).
- Parents and other persons who wish to visit the office must have their temperature checked and follow hygiene procedures.

WHO MAY NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL CAMPUS

Any family returning to Zanzibar from abroad should wait at least 5 days prior to entering the school. Any family who feels that they may have been exposed to Covid-19 should seek medical advice and inform the school immediately.

As always, if a child is sick with any disease, do NOT send him/her to school.

- If a child experiences any Covid-19 symptoms, s/he should stay at home until the symptoms have cleared. Parents may be asked to present a clearance certificate from a doctor before returning to school.

THE SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ENTRY TO PERSONS NOT MEETING THE CRITERIA SET OUT ABOVE.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER EXPERIENCES Covid-19 SYMPTOMS DURING THE DAY

If a student is unwell, s/he will be sent to the office. We have a small room where the student can be held in isolation until the parents arrive at school. ISZ works closely with Wajamama Health Center, and after contacting the parents we may reach out to Wajamama for assistance and advice.

Should a staff member fall ill with typical Covid-19 symptoms during the day, they will leave campus immediately and seek medical advice. If there is reason to suspect Covid-19, the school will notify all persons/families who were in close contact with that staff member during that day. The school will also arrange for testing for Covid-19 (if possible) and inform the community of the results.

THE SCHOOL DAY, HYGIENE & SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Regular classes take place from 7:45 - 15:00. After school activities run from 15:10 to 16:00.

To further avoid crowding, all three school gates (2 in front and 1 in back) will be staffed. We ask that you enter through the gate with the least traffic at the time and maintain a distance while waiting to have your temperature checked.

Our classrooms are generally well ventilated, but we have increased the number of outdoor learning spaces on campus to facilitate lessons taking place outside as often as possible.

Wearing Facemasks on Campus

The Tanzania Ministry of Health guidelines for schools recommends wearing of masks when social distancing measures cannot be met. Updated WHO guidelines indicate that children under the age of 12 need not wear a face mask. Therefore, ISZ will not require students in Playgroup to Year 6 to wear a mask.

When the face mask policy is in place, students in Year 7 and older will be asked to wear a facemask while indoors. Each student in Year 7 and above should bring at least 3 clean/fresh face masks to school every day. Used masks need to be disposed of properly. Reusable masks should be stored in a separate plastic bag (ziplock bag).

Wearing facemasks while outside is not required.

Some of our classes are very small (2 to 7 students). Where sufficient social distancing is possible indoors (minimum of 1.5m), students are not required to wear a facemask.

When in gatherings or working in groups, students and staff should wear a facemask.

Hygiene and Social Distancing Measures

All students and staff will regularly wash hands. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and other designated school areas.

Classroom materials and toys will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

Each student will have a personal supply of materials on their chair/desk to limit movement in the classroom.

Swahili lessons for Early Years will take place in the Early Years area.

PE and Swimming lessons will take place as usual.