



Bertrange, 12th May 2020
Re.: D-PF-cc-20-396

Subject: School organization as of 25 May 2020

Dear parents,

As announced in our communication on 29 April 2020, the management of the two European Schools in Luxembourg have assessed the most appropriate scenarios to prepare for a possible resumption of “in situ” lessons.

As a general principle, maximum protection of the health of every child, young person and staff member remains a top priority, and efforts to limit the spread of COVID- 19 and to protect the vulnerable population as much as possible are maintained. All decisions are subordinated to this primary objective and will be taken in full respect of the rules imposed on public schools by the competent Luxembourg authorities for the reopening of schools.

As you know, the core of the European Schools, around which our structure of education and lessons is based, is to mix pupils from different languages, nationalities, cultures and so learning to know and to respect each other’s differences, still being proud of one’s own origin. We continuously increase this mixing up through the years from early Primary to Secondary cycles, including the teaching of several subjects in the students Language 2.

Given this very specific context at our school, we thoroughly assessed the options to implement these rules, especially the main practical restrictions that have the largest impact on our ability to organize lessons in situ again:

- implementation of all hygiene and safety measures required,
- pupils have to stay in their base groups and are not allowed to mix groups with other pupils,
- pupils, teachers and other staff members must respect a physical distance of 2 meters in school classes when not wearing masks,
- pupils, teachers and other staff members must wear masks at all times when entering and leaving building and when circulating in the building,
- lessons have to be organized with a split of classes in weekly alternating A/B groups (1 week at school, 1 week at home),
- no canteen services can be provided,
- no sports and swimming lessons can be organized,
- strong focus on regular personal hygiene measures.

Multiple scenarios, from following the phases of the Luxembourg national public schools to not reopening for lessons “in situ” at all, have been thoroughly analyzed and also discussed with all stakeholders. The Advisory Boards of our two Schools have met to express their opinion on the different scenarios.

The management of both Schools, although having to concentrate for the moment on the short-term decisions to be taken, is in parallel working on the return to school for the next school year, in



September. Our ambition is a return to a situation where more pupils and teachers are meeting again face-to-face and with all relevant aspects on safety and hygiene being fully addressed.

Considering the analysis of the different scenarios and their respective impact, the feedback from the Advisory Boards of our two Schools and after consultation with the Secretary General of the European Schools, the directors of the two European Schools in Luxembourg have jointly concluded as follows:

- We have decided that the necessary conditions can be met only for “in situ” lessons to start again in Primary P1 and P5, based on the A/B group split model, with a starting date on Tuesday 26 May 2020 (no lessons at all on Monday 25 May). Monday 25 May will be a preparation day in situ for the staff.
During the period from 25 May until 05 June, we will assess again the situation and decide whether one additional level of Primary cycle might return to “in situ” lessons as of 09 June at the earliest. Relevant information will be communicated during the second half of the week of 01 June.
- It is not yet foreseen that Nursery cycle classes, all remaining Primary cycle levels as well as Secondary cycle will return to “in situ” lessons before the end of this school year 2019/2020, anyway distance teaching and learning will be continued for these levels and classes until 03 July 2020. We will continuously monitor and assess the evolution of the situation.

Please be assured that distance learning and remote teaching will be monitored on an ongoing base and that we are doing our utmost to permanently optimize the situation.

We will publish a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on our website in the next days that will be updated continuously. In addition, you will receive more detailed information on the practical implication of this decision in the next days, including in detail how the courses in situ will take place as from 26 May.

We must remain aware that all decisions taken by the Luxembourg government as well as by the directors of our two Schools can at any time be adapted to the evolution of the national and/or international health situation and that a return to the previous phase will always remain possible.

Stay healthy!

Sincerest regards,

Per FRITHIOFSON

Director