

Dear Parents,

Today the Dutch government gave an extraordinary press conference on Coronavirus' (COVID-19) development in the Netherlands. The government introduced the following two key measures to avoid further spreading:

1. All gatherings of over 100 people should be cancelled.
2. Anyone experiencing mild symptoms such as a slight cold, sore throat, cough or fever should stay at home. [Note this goes further than previous recommendations to stay at home only if experiencing flu-like symptoms].

ESH Senior Management has met earlier this week with the EU agencies/organisations. We have been informed on the measurements that EU agencies/organisations take. Parties respects that ESH as a Dutch international school follows the direction from the Dutch authorities (RIVM and GGD).

The government has also advised those who can work from home to do so, at least until March 31st.

There is no change in the situation with regards to schools. As announced by our Prime Minister, Dutch primary and secondary schools remains open¹.

We are aware and understand that some parents feel we should close our school. However, as a Dutch international school we are required by law to keep open unless instructed to close by the GGD.

Parents are reminded that unless your child(ren) are experiencing the symptoms above, they should attend school as normal. ESH is obliged to follow the compulsory attendance protocols.

ESH Meeting Protocol:

In line with the EU agencies/organisations and other schools, ESH Senior Management has introduced a meeting protocol. The following reflects our new mandate for staff and parents:

1. Reduce the number of meetings: cancel where necessary - plan only essential meetings.
2. Avoid proximity: during any meeting, attendees should (as far as possible) sit at least 1 meter apart from each other.
3. Actively follow the frequently mentioned hand and respiratory hygiene protocol (wash your hands etc.) and avoid touching your face.

¹ Please note that ESH Senior Management is informed by the Secretary General (SG) of the European Schools that the European Schools, (Type I) have suspended all their lessons until the end of March 2020. The SG acknowledges that Accredited European Schools are obliged to follow the directions of the national authorities.

Our Community:

The statistics show that it is adults (ESH parents and staff) who are the main risk-group, and therefore, we urge everyone to be pro-active, smart and safe. Besides the expected hand and respiratory hygiene protocol, please stay away from school if you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms. We encourage you to avoid physical contact and practice “social distancing”. *Every single person can make their contribution to curb the progression and change the course of the infection within our ESH community.*

All trips cancelled until 1 April:

All planned trips for staff (professional development) before 1 April 2020, are cancelled/postponed.

All external school trips are cancelled / postponed, and this includes: MFNU, volleyball tournament, school swimming, all sport events, school trips and the P5 Residential trip. Updates will be sent.

School Life:

In the meantime, we will continue to run our school according to the normal routine. It is important for our ESH students that they experience a safe, nurturing and calm environment during the day and can continue their activities and learning as usual. In-house activities and after school activities (ASAs) will continue. ESH will have screened the external professionals who come into school to work with the children -and drawn their attention to our hygiene expectations and precautions. As communicated on Tuesday, all large in-house gatherings of visitors / parents have been cancelled at ESH.

If / when a confirmed case of the Coronavirus in a student or staff member:

This information will come to us via the GGD. This would be a catalyst for our established Crisis Team (Senior Management) who will follow the crisis protocol and communicate with parents and staff via a message on Social Schools (push notification) or SMS and also on email.

In the event ESH is forced to close under the mandate of the GGD:

Closure will be temporary and in accordance with the instructions given by the GGD.

While we may not be able to respond individually to each email regarding this topic, we will continue to keep you updated on the situation. Here again, is the link to the RIVM website:

<https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus-covid-19> and our ESH page:

<https://www.europeanschoolthehague.nl/Coronavirus>

Thank you for all your efforts during these uncertain times. We appreciate your support to our community of children and parents and colleagues.

Stay healthy, stay safe, stay connected to us.

Met vriendelijke groet,

Senior Management Team ESH

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