

10 March 2020

Dear Parents,

As the numbers of infections in the Netherlands continue to rise, so do parents' concerns about the safety and welfare of their children. We would like to ensure that our families are kept up to date on the latest health advice on the Coronavirus COVID-19 from the RIVM (Dutch Health Ministry) and from ESH management. Please refer to our webpage: <https://www.europeanschoolthehague.nl/coronavirus> and read on.

Tomorrow, ESH senior management is meeting with the EU agencies/organisations in The Hague to update each other and to align approaches to avoid (possible further) infections among colleagues and families. To escalate our preventative measures at school, **we are cancelling all (in-house) large gatherings with parents or visitors** at ESH for the foreseeable future. Internal ESH staff meetings will proceed as usual.

We are aware that the European School of Munich (ESM) closed their school because two pupils have tested positive for Coronavirus. The ESM was closed on the authority of the German government.

In the event an ESH pupil, ESH parent or an ESH staff member is infected by the Coronavirus (and tested positive) we will be informed by the local GGD. The GGD will give directives to the school how to handle the situation and what quarantine measures will be put into place. **Closing our school will only be done on the authorisation of the GGD and the mayor of the city of The Hague.**

Feeling worried and anxious is normal. It's important to stay calm and assured that the regional health authorities who make decisions have extensive expertise in managing this. For now, we request everyone to protect the health of our ESH community, by practicing strict hand and respiratory hygiene (as previously communicated), **stop shaking hands, avoid touching your face**, taking proactive steps to stay healthy, remaining home if you are sick (and been to a high risk area), and contacting your doctor via phone if you have fever or flu-like symptoms (cough, sneezing, shortness of breath).

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Frans van de Kerkhof, Eugene Voorneman & Francois Roosegaarde-Bisschop