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May 13, 2020

Dear KIS Community,

Thank you for your partnership in safely managing the challenges we are facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We want to be certain that all members of our community have seen the most recent recommendations from the Korean Government about the steps that should be taken to help contain the recent cluster outbreak in the Itaewon area.

The Republic of Korea government asks all visitors to Itaewon nightclubs or bars from April 24-May 6 to seek COVID-19 testing at their nearest public healthcare center or by calling 1339. Testing is available to all foreign residents at no cost. Please continue to monitor COVID-19 updates provided by the [Korean Center for Disease Control](#). Up-to-the-minute COVID-19 updates are also available from the [Seoul Metropolitan Government](#).

As an additional precaution, all faculty and staff who visited any location in Itaewon since April 24, have reported to the Gyeonggi-do Office of Education (GOE); called local health clinics to see if testing is recommended; and gone in to confirm negative testing results if appropriate. All students and families should also be following this GOE recommendation. If you or a member of your household has visited Itaewon since April 24, please call the local health department for a screening assessment.

Given the recent cluster of new locally transmitted cases of Covid-19, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has made the decision to delay the staggered start of campus reopenings across the country by one week. While we are eager to welcome to campus, we do not want to return hastily when there is increased risk to community health and well being.

For Korea International School, this means that we will welcome the first group of students, our High School Seniors, back to campus by appointment only and to prepare for graduation exercises, on May 20. Following this, our PK - Grade 2, Grade 6, and Grade 9 students will return to campus on May 27. On June 3, we will welcome back our Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. Our Grade 5, Grade 10 and Grade 11 students *may* also still be able to return to school on June 3, pending GOE approval; otherwise, these students will report to campus on June 8. We will continue to monitor the situation and update the end of school year plans accordingly.

Please note that this is the same return to campus plan as previously communicated, with the initial staggered return dates moving one week later.

Representatives from the MOE visited the KIS Pangyo campus on Tuesday to review our readiness for student return to campus. They evaluated our Covid-19 prevention facility upgrades, verified that we have all necessary supplies on campus, and reviewed our safeguarding protocols. The evaluators highly commended the efforts of KIS and enjoyed seeing how our classrooms have been set up to allow for socially distanced learning configurations. They especially liked this welcome back [video](#) that helps to introduce students and their parents to some of the new return to campus rules of the road. Please review the information in the video with your child to help students prepare for and anticipate some of the changes that will be in place when we are back together on campus.

We will continue to keep you updated on graduation and year end learning celebration planning in accordance with local government and health agency guidelines. Thanks for your outstanding efforts to carry on and lend so much needed support to our community.

Please continue to share your feedback by completing today's [Parent Survey](#).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Quirin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "Q" at the end.

Michelle Quirin
School Director