



Campus Re-opening Guidelines for Parents

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions: Health and Safety Protocols

Who decided that the Academy will reopen on Monday 2nd November?
Does the Academy have the necessary authorisations to open?

The Academy has undergone the required process and inspections by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and has received authorisation to reopen. The Academy has chosen a gradual, sequenced return to school to maximise the safety and health of the school community.

What safety measures will be in place to protect students and staff?

As always, our plans are based on the advice, guidance and directives of national and local public health officials and Academies network best practice. It is important to note that a safe school reopening is contingent on limiting community spread of COVID-19. If circumstances change, and Matola/Maputo experiences an increase in cases, we may need to adjust our model. We encourage everyone to follow public health guidelines and remain vigilant in helping to keep our communities safe. The Ministry document provides guidance on safety and cleaning measures to help keep students and staff safe at school such as the use of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE), enhanced cleaning supplies and protocols and additional health and safety training for school-based staff.

Will students and staff be screened upon arrival at school?

All students and staff must self-screen every day before attending school. We will provide families and staff with a checklist to perform daily screening of their child before arriving at school. If a student or staff member is experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home from school and should seek testing and appropriate medical attention. Staff and students feeling sick should remain at home while waiting for test results. If a symptomatic individual tests positive for COVID-19, they should continue to remain in isolation at home and follow the directions of their local public health unit.



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Will temperatures be taken at school?

Yes, there will be a daily temperature check for all faculty, staff and students upon arrival at the Academy.

What happens if a student feels sick? Will they be sent home? Will they have to isolate for 14 days?

All students and staff must self-screen every day using a checklist before arriving at school. If a student or staff member is experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home from school and should seek testing and appropriate medical attention. If a student or staff member feels sick, or develops symptoms while at the Academy, we will observe the following protocol:

- Students or staff who develop COVID-19 symptoms will immediately be separated from others, and the family will be contacted to arrange pick-up.
 - Staff and families will be directed to consult their health-care provider and should be provided with information about COVID-19 testing locations.
 - Staff and/or students who test positive may not return to school until they are cleared by their health-care provider.
 - Staff and/or students who test negative can return to school once they are symptom-free for 24 hours.
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What if a student or staff member tests positive? Does the whole class have to be tested or self-isolate?

If a COVID-19 positive case is identified in a school, local health authorities will provide further instructions on who else in the school may need testing and/or monitoring/isolation at that time.

Are parents notified about a positive test in the school?

The school nurse or a member of the school management team will coordinate to notify families of the presence of any positive COVID-19 cases in the classroom and/or school to raise awareness and encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home. Who decided that the Academy will reopen on Monday 2nd November?



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How does the school plan to communicate a positive COVID-19 case?

Previously established processes for communication to stakeholders regarding other contagious diseases that impact schools will be followed, including protecting the identity of those who test positive.

Does my student have to wear a mask? What if they can't due to a condition?

All students in Grades 1 to 10 are required to wear cloth masks at all times, upon arrival, while indoors in common areas (such as hallways) and on the school bus unless there is a necessary exemption (medical conditions or special needs) that would prevent them from wearing a mask.

Will masks be provided to students?

Families are expected to provide cloth masks for their student(s). For those students who choose to wear a cloth mask, families will be responsible to ensure that it is appropriately cleaned,

How will children store their masks for lunch breaks and recess?

When not in use, masks should be stored in a labelled paper bag or reusable container that does not breed moisture.

Can students use lanyards or chains to hold their mask so they don't lose them?

No. This is not good mask protocol. Masks should be stored in a paper bag or container that does not promote moisture. Also, lanyards pose a potential choking and safety hazard.



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Will there be adequate hand cleaning stations? How often will students clean their hands?

All classrooms will have a hand washing station or hand sanitiser available. Regular hand cleaning will be incorporated into students' daily routines (upon entering their classroom, before lunch and recess breaks, after using the washroom, returning from outside play/recess and after sneezing or coughing). Students will be taught proper handwashing hygiene.

How will you ensure adequate physical distancing?

Because physical distancing is not possible in most schools, masks are mandatory for staff, and students in Grades 1 to 10. Where possible, staff will be encouraged to take students outdoors or into larger spaces to further reduce risks.

How will schools and classrooms be cleaned?

The Academy will implement a more frequent cleaning and disinfecting routine according to Ministry of Health recommendations. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day throughout the school building. Schools will undergo extra cleaning and disinfection at the end of each school day. Soft surfaces that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed from classrooms (e.g. plush/absorbent items, upholstered furnishings).

How will washrooms be cleaned?

High-touch surfaces in washrooms will be cleaned throughout the day. The use of washrooms will be staggered where possible to support grouping of students. Signage will be posted to indicate the maximum number of people using washrooms at any given time.



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Frequently Asked Questions: **School Day/Operations**

What does a return to school look like at the Academy?

From 2 November 2020, the Academy will operate through a number of phases dependent on the environmental risks. The Academy will progress through these phases, dependent on several factors to constantly evaluate risk and ensure the safety of our school community. Contributing factors may include any of the following: outbreaks of infections on campus, the prevailing infection rate locally and nationally, guidance from government and international organisations and the availability of faculty and staff to operate the campus safely and effectively.

Do students have to return to school? What options do parents have if they do not wish to send their children back to the Academy?

We would encourage students to return to school as soon as they are able to. The school has taken every precaution to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment. At the current time, online learning can be available for those students not attending school if there is a valid reason for them not attending. Please discuss with your child's teacher and/or the school leadership.

What if I choose not to send my child on a day where face-to-face schooling is available for her/him? Will s/he still have virtual teaching and learning on this day?

We would encourage parents to send their children to school as per the defined plans, however online learning will be available for those students not attending school.



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How will students be prepared for a return to school under the current safety protocols? Will there be some kind of “training”? Who will oversee the training?

One of the reasons for a gradual return to school is to ensure that each class of students spends at least two days as the only class in its area of the school. This will enable detailed instructions and training to be given in order to keep students safe. This will be an integral part of the teaching and learning programme. Teachers, senior leaders and the school nurse will be available to welcome students back to school, and to help them adjust to new routines.

How will the school day be affected by health and safety protocols?

The Academy is developing strategies that will support general physical distancing throughout the school day. Students, for example, will notice visual cues, such as directional arrows through corridors and stairwells and signs on walls, to guide appropriate distances in lines and at other times. Classrooms will be organized in such a way to reduce face-to-face interaction between students. Weather permitting, some activities (classes, lunch breaks) may be held outside.

Large gatherings/assemblies will be postponed for the immediate future. Lunch Breaks: Students will eat in their classroom and staff/students will need to bring their own lunch/snacks from home.

Will visitors be permitted inside the school??

Non-essential visitors to the school will be limited including families. Visits to ensure school safety (by health and safety authorities) will continue under current health and safety protocols. All visitors will be required to self-screen, wear a cloth mask while indoors, and present themselves at the school gate where they must sign in and out (for contact tracing purposes) and wait for further direction. In the exceptional case where families must enter the school (in an emergency and as approved by the school administrator), they will be required to follow the same protocols above: self-screen, wear a cloth mask while indoors, and present themselves to the school office where they must sign in and out (for contact tracing) and wait for further direction. Families will not be permitted to attend classrooms or other common areas of the school. At entry and dismissal times, families are to remain outside the school in designated and identified areas and adhere to physical distancing protocols. Vehicles will be admitted by the security staff and all passengers are requested to stay in their vehicles.



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What if I need to drop something off to my child, or pick them up for an appointment?

Non-essential visitors to the school will be limited including families. Visits to the school during the school day will be by appointment only, arranged in advance through the school office. Family members may be asked to wait outside until a staff member can attend to them. In the case where families or community partners must enter the school (as approved by the Head of Academy), they will be required to self-screen, wear a cloth mask while indoors, and present themselves to the school office where they must sign in and wait for further direction. Unscheduled visitors and family members may not be permitted to enter the school.

What will lunch breaks look like?

In accordance with Mozambican law, school lunches will not be provided until further notice. As such, parents will need to prepare packed lunches for their children on the days they are attending classes on campus. Some suggestions include dry foods such as sandwiches (or fish fingers, chicken nuggets, etc) alongside a combination of salad, fruit, yoghurt or a juice. Please note there will be no reheating facilities available on campus. We suggest also including some snacks of your choosing for your child. All students must bring their own labelled water bottle to school when attending.

How will lunch supervisors or staff doing lunch supervision be protected as students will not be wearing masks during this time?

Teachers and lunch supervisors will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing and wear appropriate PPE (masks are mandatory).

How will student supplies and shared learning materials be cleaned?

Staff will limit the sharing of supplies, equipment, textbooks and toys. Adequate supplies for instructional courses will be provided to each student. Where it is not practical to give each student their own resources, classroom resources that are used regularly will be cleaned daily and students will clean their hands before and after use. Staff will review specific safety precautions required for classes that traditionally involve the sharing of resources between students.



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Will families need to purchase extra school supplies for the new school year?

Each student will be required to bring their own stationery to prevent the spread of any germs. We also request the stationery items and other belongings of the student be labelled with their name.

Will field trips be allowed?

Current health regulations recommend not planning field trips and activities requiring group transportation at this time, until public health data suggests otherwise.

Will my child have a break/playtime? Will playgrounds be open? How will they be supervised?

Students will participate in structured playtime/break and Physical Education (PE) lessons, staggered by grade level when applicable. We are fortunate to have plenty of outdoor space and this will be used frequently to provide supervised break times.

Will there be clubs and extra-curricular activities?

No, not in the immediate future.



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Frequently Asked Questions:

Return to School/Learning Models

Will some student remain on a remote learning programme?

The school will do its best to make provision for residential students who are overseas or unable to travel. Some 'at risk' students may also be supported whilst learning from home. The Academy encourages all students to return to face to face learning if possible. The social wellbeing of students is as important as their physical health.

Do students have to return to school? What options do parents have if they do not wish to send their children back to the Academy?

Teachers always work with students to make up lost time whether that is due to illness or other circumstances that see them absent from school for an extended period of time.

Will sports and physical education be permitted?

Classes will be conducted outside, weather permitting. Gyms will only be used where physical distancing measures can be followed. All activities will support physical distancing while limiting use of shared equipment. Shared equipment will be cleaned regularly, and students should practise proper hand hygiene before and after participating in physical activity and equipment use.

Will arts and music classes be permitted?

Yes, all activities will support physical distancing while limiting use of shared equipment. Shared equipment will be cleaned regularly, and students should practise proper hand hygiene before and after participating in an activity and equipment use.

Can a student do in-person school and also remote learning or do they need to choose one programme? What if my student begins in-person learning



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but becomes ill, or is required to self-isolate? Will they then be provided with remote learning?

We would treat this the same as any other absence due to illness. The teacher(s) would work with the student/family to determine a plan for the makeup of work. In the initial phase of returning to school, each student will experience a combination of face to face and online learning.

How will you address learning gaps that have been worsened by the pandemic and extended school closures?

We know that the pandemic has affected our students in different ways. Once we have students and staff back in schools, teachers and support staff will work together to assess the ongoing needs of all students. This is always a priority.

How do I talk to my student's teachers?

Wherever possible, families will communicate with their student's teacher or school via telephone, email or virtual meeting. The usual channels of communication will remain open, but please do not call a teacher during student lesson times.

What is the status of international students? How will this affect Residential students?

At this point, if international students are permitted to enter Mozambique, they will be subject to 14 days of quarantine. A date for the opening of the residential facilities will be shared with parents in advance.



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Frequently Asked Questions:

Transportation & Fees

What arrangements are being made for transportation?

Detailed information on transport arrangements will be shared with parents in a separate note.

What should I do if I am struggling to cover my child's fees?

The Academy is keen to ensure that all students currently enrolled are able to continue their studies. If you are facing challenges in covering school fees, please reach out to the Finance Office to discuss payment options. Further information on resumption of fee levels will be shared with parents.
