

Dear GESS Community,

We are closely monitoring the situation this evening and overnight and will take action at any moment. Please continue to monitor the [Parent Portal update site](#) and your email.

Proactive measures

GESS has from the beginning of the Coronavirus situation taken measures above and beyond government mandated requirements and regulations. We will of course follow government instructions, however, we have our own detailed school-specific action matrix and we are ready to close the school if deemed necessary.

Beyond liaising with the Ministry of Health, we also coordinate our actions with independent medical experts.

At present, we have taken extra precautionary measures as a school. None of these have been mandated by government departments. We have internally identified contact tracing and areas of the campus that need to be medically cleaned again as a precautionary measure. This also includes CCAs and the school bus.

From this investigation, appropriate actions have been implemented and classes that may be connected have been asked to stay at home, including close contacts. We have contacted families directly about this.

Open and honest communication

I reiterate our commitment to be transparent, open and clear about any matters that could affect our community. In return, I ask that our community carefully read the information and react in a rational way. I know all the local and global news about the Coronavirus is worrying and it has all of us questioning every bit of news, analysing words and trying to second guess the situation. I will be to the point, factual and deeply honest with our great community.

Preschool classes

Based on the information as of now, one Preschool class including siblings (brothers and sisters) and close contacts has been asked to stay at home. We are prepared to further increase our measures should the situation require it. We remain precautionary, rational and informed by independent medical experts as well as government regulations.

For the other two Preschool classes, there is no suspected case within the GESS community. Therefore, siblings or close contacts are not required to stay at home.

For all classes, we have directly contacted parents via email.

Test result

According to the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID), the final test result will take 2-3 days. I will of course update the community as soon as we have any news and we will personally support our community member.

Toddlers and Pre-Kindergarten classes closed tomorrow due to staff staying at home as a precautionary measure

Due to the additional measures GESS implemented today, several Preschool members of staff will be asked to stay at home as a precautionary measure even though they are not directly related to the news from today.

Therefore, Toddlers and all Pre-Kindergarten classes will stay at home tomorrow until further notice.

I would like to underline that this is not because any of the other teachers or members of staff are currently suspected cases.

I ask you again to please not send non-emergency communication to the school, including teachers. We all have our own opinions, thoughts and ideas. All members of the GESS Emergency team are working through the evening and night to monitor the situation and they have my full support. Please help support the school by keeping communication to only emergency and relevant emails.

Our commitment to the GESS community remains as great as ever. A German translation will be added to the [Parent Portal update site](#) - news and updates section in the morning.

Christof Martin

GESS Principal