

Private School Reopening Policies and Guidelines

ADDENDUM



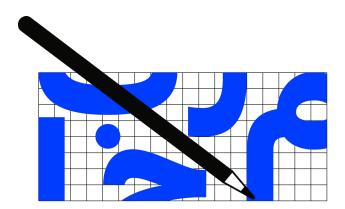


AMENDMENTS TO THE PRIVATE SCHOOL REOPENING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES (PSRPG)

Since the issuance of the PSRPG on July 20, 2020, the Abu Dhabi government has issued changes to policies regarding school reopening.

All amendments to the PSRPG have been outlined in this addendum and are relevant to:

Section 1. Safe Operations Section 2. Teaching & Learning



1. Phasing

Reopening will be universally phased – only KG1 to Grade 5 may resume face-to-face classes for the first 4 weeks. Depending on the health situation, approval for the rest of the grades will be announced. You will need to remain flexible and continue distance learning for those grades until then. ADEK will aim to give at least 3-5 days notice to allow schools to prepare for the next phase.

Replaces:

2.1.1. Student Attendance (pg. 34 from PSRPG)

 All students shall return to school as per their school's published Academic Calendar for 2020/21.

2.3.4. Pilot Phase (pg. 38 from PSRPG)

- Equal face-While not recommended, schools may opt to test the reopening process with a pilot of reduced numbers of students.
- Schools will have a maximum of four weeks to carry out their pilot, after which they must welcome all eligible students back for as much to-face learning as is possible.

2.3.5. Priority Groups (pg. 38 from PSRPG)

- Schools shall consider the following priority groups for partial return models and the pilot phase:
 - * Students most in need of regular face-to-face learning are young children (KG, early Cycle 1), Students of Determination, and those with special educational needs. These priority students most likely also require more distance learning support from their parents.
 - * Students transitioning between cycles would also benefit from the added support to cope with new teachers and new educational experiences.
 - * Students in their final or high-stakes assessment years would also benefit from FTF learning for the purposes of better exam preparation.



2. Maximum Class Size

The maximum number of students per class is 15 with social distancing at 1.5m and mandatory masks for Grade 1 and above. Any larger classroom spaces may only used by more than one class if total physical separation (physical barrier and no entry of one group into the space of another group) of the groups is possible. Bubbles for KG remain at a maximum of 10. The maximum of 15 only applies to areas where the students are social distancing and wearing masks.

Replaces the underlined text only:

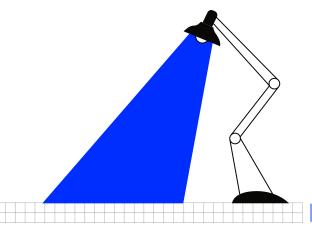
1.5.2. Classrooms (pg. 16 from PSRPG)

• ADEK is not stipulating an absolute maximum number of students per class given the social distancing configuration – however, this should be small enough that every student can effectively hear the teacher and participate fully in the class. The maximum capacity for each classroom/teaching space should be clearly indicated on the door.

3. Macro-bubbles

The school should be divided into 3-4 macro-bubbles (i.e. all staff and students across grades). There should be absolutely no mixing of spaces outside of these macro-bubbles (ie. an art teacher may teach both grade 1 and grade 3 classes and therefore would be assigned to a larger macro-bubble encompassing other grade 1 and grade 3 teachers and students). If there was an incident, this would allow for the isolation of only that macro-bubble for testing and further action.

This policy is an addition to Section 2.4 Student Grouping (pg. 39 from PSRPG)



4. Mandatory COVID-19 Testing

PCR Testing will be required once before school reopening for all students aged 12 (Grade 7/Year 8) and above. Students of Determination are exempt. Students may be tested after that on an adhoc basis. Staff will be tested more regularly. Details of the staff testing program have already been shared with schools, and the testing program for students will be shared at a later time.

Replaces:

1.3.4. Mandatory COVID-19 Test and Travel History (pg. 11 from PSRPG)

 All staff, parents, and students with devices are required to download ALHOSN app to facilitate contact tracing in case of an incident.

And requires the underlined amendment:

1.1.2. Criteria for Reopening Schools (pg. 08 from PSRPG)

- The school's COVID-19 Taskforce shall ensure the following is completed prior to reopening (detailed requirements are available in the relevant sections below):
 - * Verify that all staff and students <u>aged 12 and above (not including Students of Determination)</u> have undergone COVID-19 Testing.



5. Partial/Full Reclosure

In the case of a single confirmed infection, all contacts must self-isolate for 14 days, possibly including members of their households. In the case of two or more confirmed cases, the school will move to distance learning for a minimum of 14 days. Abu Dhabi Department of Health (DoH) and ADEK must be notified immediately. Further details will be communicated by the health authorities.

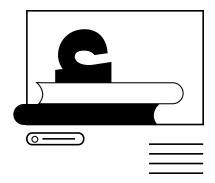
Replaces:

1.2.1. Partial Reclosure (pg. 09 from PSRPG)

• If a member of the school community has tested positive for COVID-19, and that individual's movements in the premises can be isolated to a certain area or group (i.e. confined physical area), the school must close the concerned areas for disinfection and have the concerned groups (class/bus groups and other close contacts) stay home for 14 days. This must be reported to the Abu Dhabi Department of Health (DoH) for follow up according to their processes. ADEK must be notified immediately.

1.2.2. Full Reclosure (pg. 09 from PSRPG)

• If a member of the school community has tested positive for COVID-19, and that individual's movements in the premises cannot be isolated to a certain confined area, the school may be required to close fully. ADEK must be notified immediately.



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6. Parent Choice for Children to Physically Attend School

The learning mode for the upcoming term (distance learning or physical attendance to school) is now optional for parents. ADEK recommends 2 weeks of flexibility before asking them to commit to a learning mode for the term. If parents choose to send their child to school physically, they will need to sign a physical return declaration that they will not do so if their child displays any COVID-19 symptoms.

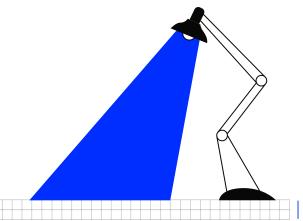
Requires underlined amendments:

2.1.1. Student Attendance (pg. 34 from PSRPG)

 Exemptions may be granted to students whose parents choose to keep them at home for any reason (medical, living with vulnerable persons, unease until situation improves in the UAE, etc.)

1.3.7. Guidelines for Daily Health Screening Prior to Leaving Home (pg. 12 from PSRPG)

- Schools shall communicate that parents are strongly advised to check their children's temperatures and screen for symptoms before leaving the house. Children who exhibit symptoms or who are feeling generally unwell are required to stay home as per the physical return declaration signed by parents.
- Staff are strongly advised to check their own temperature and screen for symptoms before leaving the house. Staff who exhibit symptoms or who are feeling generally unwell <u>are required</u> to stay home.



7. Accompanying Parents of Younger Students

Parents of younger children can be with their child during the first few days only if the parents show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test (48 hours validity). This discretion should be used sparingly and only in cases where the child is showing signs that he/she is unable to stay in school without the parent. Parents should observe all safety measures that are imposed on all staff.

Replaces underlined text only:

1.4.1. Guidance on School Access Points (pg. 12 from PSRPG)

• Entry/exit should be staggered, with limited crossover between students arriving by private transportation and bus-riders. <u>Timing should also be organized so KG and early Cycle 1 students / one parent can be accompanied in groups by staff to and from the access points.</u>

8. Temperature Screening

Temperature screening instruments measure a person's surface temperature and not body temperature and are thus ineffective in outdoor settings in the UAE. Temperature screening should therefore take place in indoor spaces close to the entrance (of the school or the bus).

Requires underlined amendments:

1.4.1. Guidance on School Access Points (pg. 12 from PSRPG)

• Non-contact temperature screening must be held for each person when entering the school or taking the bus. To maximize flow, schools are advised to install thermal scanners in an indoor area at the main access points.

1.8.2. Bus Safety and Hygiene Measures (pg. 27 from PSRPG)

• Younger students must be accompanied by an adult guardian <u>until</u> seated on the bus. Their temperature will be taken inside the bus close to the entrance and the student will need to disembark if found to have an elevated body temperature.

2.8.5. Advice on Conducting Exams (pg. 46 from PSRPG)

High-Stakes Exams:

 Temperature checks must be administered <u>when</u> entering the exam room (unless already completed when entering the school premises).

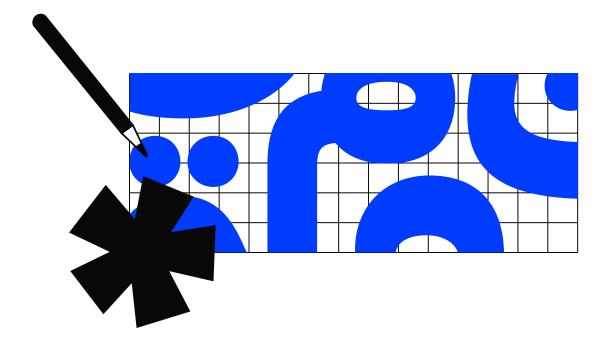
9. Prayer Rooms

Prayer rooms must remain closed to staff and students.

Replaces:

1.5.9. Prayer Rooms (pg. 19 from PSRPG)

- Students and teachers must bring their personal prayer mats, which must be properly stored while at school and cleaned regularly.
- Other guidelines regarding prayer rooms will be announced at a later time in conjunction with relevant authorities.



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