



## **Coffee with the Commander - Special Back to School**

**July 31, 2020**

### **Answers to questions**

#### **I. Lunch**

**Will off campus lunch be authorized for High School?** Not at this time.

**What will happen at lunch? Is there cleaning between groups? If there is a positive case, will the cafeteria be closed? Will lunch service be changed? Who monitors the kids (how many)?** During meal times, when face coverings are necessarily removed and germs can easily be transmitted from hand to mouth, it will be especially important to encourage excellent handwashing hygiene and consistent social distancing precautions, along with modified scheduling and delivery service models to reduce large gatherings. Students will be required to wash hands thoroughly prior to meal times, and lunch schedules may be staggered. Students will practice social distancing and be able to remove their mask when eating. Lunch may go to a “Grab and Go”. If the school is closed for a positive case, the school facility will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Students are monitored by school employees during the lunch period.

#### **II. Teachers**

**What kind of leave will the teachers be charged if they are quarantined but not sick?** If a teacher returns to Europe, or is already in Europe, goes to the doctor due to COVID-19 symptoms, and the doctor directs the employee to quarantine, then the employee may request up to 80 hours of Emergency Paid Sick Leave.

**Who is covering in person classes for teachers that go virtual?** Teachers that are selected for as a virtual school teacher will not be assigned students at the brick and mortar school.

**Will the teachers and staff at the schools also be required to wear masks at all times?** Face coverings are required if social distancing cannot be achieved.

### III. PCS

**Are students arriving from the US expected to quarantine?** At this time, Belgium is requiring a quarantine (14 days) for everyone arriving from the US.

### IV. School bus

**Will there be a stock of masks in the bus in case kids forget their mask on the way to the bus?** Students are required to wear face coverings while waiting at the bus stop and on the bus. The bus driver will have masks in case of an emergency.

**How will school bus run knowing they don't have windows or air conditioning?** School buses either have windows, air conditioning, or both.

**Will temperatures be taken before going on the bus to school by bus monitors?** No. Sponsors, parents, or caregivers conduct a temperature check and a visual inspection for shortness of breath or cough, flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness. If experiencing the above symptoms, the student or staff member should remain home until he/she is fever-free with a reduction in symptoms for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

### V. Admin

**Will students still use lockers (close to each other)? Some schools may use lockers?** Social distancing measures will be put in place to ensure if students are using lockers, that they are 6 feet apart or face coverings are used.

**When are counselors available for the High School?** Teachers and counselors return to school on August 10 for the SHAPE complex and August 17 for Brussels American School.

**Will there be an open house at the High School for incoming freshman before school starts?** Schools are developing orientation plans and will notify parents and students soon.

**Will the pre-COVID class size decrease due to social distancing regulations?** At this time we are reviewing enrollment numbers for the Virtual School and making adjustments. Face coverings are mandatory when social distancing cannot be achieved.

**Are the attendance policies being relaxed if students have symptoms and need to be out?** While teachers will take daily attendance for students in schools operating in-person as outlined in the DoDEA Attendance Policy, schools will take special effort to encourage families to keep sick students home to reduce spread of illness. Schools will discontinue any incentives or awards for perfect attendance. When students are absent,



School Student Support Teams (SSTs) will actively reach out to students who have missed school as detailed in the DoDEA Attendance Policy.

**Can students take themselves home if needed?** If symptoms of illness are confirmed, the school nurse will arrange for the student's sponsor to be notified and ask them to pick up their student within 30 minutes to an hour.

**Can we get an extension for the choice between virtual and face to face learning?** Situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your school principal for more information.

**If school is shut down for deep cleaning will those days be added at the end of the school year?**

**Will masks be provided?** All employees and students will receive two cloth face coverings.

## **VI. Program**

**How do students enrolled in the virtual classroom get registered to their class? Is it done by the counselor or the students themselves?** The Virtual School will contact the student/parent with class enrollment information.

**If parents decide to take their kids out of face to face instruction, will they have the option to sign up for virtual?** No. Families will be asked to commit to at least the first semester online. Another enrollment period will occur in the fall for a second semester of full-time DoDEA Virtual School or in-person instruction in schools.

**Why is JROTC not offered for virtual school?** It is an interactive program that is unable to be offered virtually.

**How is DoDEA planning to make up for IEP Academic Services that were partially abandoned or cut due to the short remote learning lessons that took place before summer?** The Case Study Committee will meet with parents to determine what IEP services are needed. Please contact your school principal for more information.

**Will the students in virtual learning have the same access to extracurricular activities and sports as the ones in face to face learning?** Yes, students in the Virtual School are able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports.

## VII. Cleaning

**Will substitute teachers be trained on how to implement COVID cleaning procedures, social distancing rules, etc?** All DoDEA employees will be trained on COVID -19 Operational Guidelines and Protocols to include cleaning procedures and social distancing rules.

**A child testing positive impacts also the toilets and communal spaces. How will the cleaning response or shut down be handled?** In coordination with installation medical and public health command, a health assessment of the potential health risk to students and staff will be completed. Based on consideration of the health assessment results and the potential impact to the school community, in the event of a school positive COVID-19 case, DoDEA schools may need to dismiss students and staff in accordance with CDC guidance. As determined by the results of the health assessment, the initial closure period will allow school and installation leaders to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal is needed to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19. During the closure period, the school facility will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

## VIII. Health

**What is the protocol if someone in school test positive?** The school principal will work with local medical or public health command point of contact that will provide immediate support to DoDEA in the event of a school positive COVID-19 case. Support includes assistance with assessing the potential health risk to students and staff and assistance with completion of the Personnel Accountability and Assessment Notification for a Public Health Emergency, DD Form 3112.

- Based on consideration of the health assessment results and the potential impact to the school community, in the event of a school positive COVID-19 case, DoDEA schools may need to dismiss students and staff in accordance with CDC guidance.
- As determined by the results of the health assessment, the initial closure period will allow school and installation leaders to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal is needed to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19.
- During the closure period, the school facility will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- The school principal will coordinate with DoDEA leadership and the installation command regarding communications to staff, sponsors, students, and other school stakeholders.
- Students and their sponsors should be advised that local health officials may contact the family for contact tracing. If contacted, families should notify the contract tracer that the student attended school.

**Will children wear masks even when seating at their desk? For all ages?** Face coverings are mandatory for all students.

**At what temperature should a student stay home?** 100.4

**If the amount of infected continue rising, will school open? What is the “breaking point” before that decision is made?** DoDEA and Installation commanders work together to make a decision about closing school buildings, however if the installation is at HPCOB Charlie, the school facility will close and learning will take place remotely.