

## PROTOCOL AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF COVID-19 IN THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF ALICANTE

### Introduction

The objective of this document is to update, in the EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF ALICANTE, the protection and prevention measures against SARS-CoV.2 for the **2021-2022** academic year, in continuity with those implemented during the school year 2020-21 and in line with the present level of alert and updated protocol.

This protocol has been updated to comply with the publication of the Real Decreto 115/2022, of February 8<sup>th</sup>, which modifies the regulation on compulsory use of masks during the health crisis caused by COVID-19 and the subsequent letter of February 9<sup>th</sup> sent by the Conselleria de Educación, informing on its impact in the schools of the Comunidad Valenciana as from February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Basic principles of prevention, hygiene and health promotion against COVID-19 at Escuela Europea de Alicante

Fundamental measures are listed below:

#### 1. *Limitation of contacts:*

- ✓ Face-to-face attendance of all students will be privileged.
- ✓ Student entry and exit shifts to the School and to classes are maintained, thus avoiding crowds. The students will enter and leave through the specially enabled areas and at the corresponding time, one by one, avoiding crowds and following the itineraries provided for entering and leaving the School.
- ✓ The itineraries for access to the different modules and facilities of the School will be respected, to the maximum, such as: directions of travel in corridors (outbound / inbound), entrances (in differentiated entrance and exit doors), and other similar ones, to avoid that the students cross.
- ✓ Within the classroom, a different organization of the students has been established depending on the course and depending on the level of alert:

- **Early Education and Primary:** Stable groups of students will be established, according the internal rules of the European School System, who together with the tutor would form Stable Coexistence Groups whose members can socialize and play with each other without having to maintain interpersonal distance strictly. These stable coexistence groups should avoid interaction with other groups in the educational center, limiting the number of contacts as much as possible, which would not make it necessary to keep the interpersonal distance of 1.5 meters. This alternative will also make it possible to trace contacts faster and easier if any case arises.
  - **Secondary:** A minimum personal distance of 1.2 meters will be maintained, except in alert levels 3 and 4 in which the distance will be increased to 1.5 meters.
- ✓ Communication with families by telephone, mail, messages or ordinary mail will be given priority and telematics procedures will be facilitated. Families may enter the school building if the management team so consider it, always complying with the prevention and hygiene measures and, in no case, if they present any symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

## 2. *Personal prevention measures:*

- ✓ Students should wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 40 seconds or with a disinfectant or hydro-alcoholic gel for 20 seconds. For this, the School made available adequate products. As far as possible, all the enabled classrooms, as well as the concierge, secretary, used spaces of the school and toilets, will have soap, disposable paper, hydro-alcoholic gels and wastebaskets, mostly of bucket with pedal opening and always accompanied by posters of the instructions to follow for proper hand washing. A person in charge of the supervision of the hygiene elements will be designated.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth, or mask.
- ✓ When coughing or sneezing, do not remove the mask and cover your mouth and nose with the bend of the elbow.
- ✓ The use of the mask is mandatory from the first year of primary school, **in all enclosed spaces**, regardless of the maintenance of interpersonal distance or belonging to a stable coexistence group, without prejudice to the exemptions provided for in the legal frame.
- ✓ The use of the mask will be mandatory for all teachers, **in all enclosed spaces**, regardless of the maintenance of interpersonal distance.
- ✓ **It is not compulsory for pupils to wear a mask when in the playground.**
- ✓ **When outdoor events or celebrations held in the school, the use of mask is compulsory if the persons attending are standing up. If they are seated, the use of mask is mandatory when it is not possible to maintain the safety distance of at least 1.5 meters between persons.**

- ✓ The mask indicated for the healthy population, whenever possible reusable, will possibly be the type complying with the essential requirements established in article 5.1 of the CSM Order/115/20219 (UNE 0064-1: 2020, UNE 0064-2: 2020, UNE 0065: 2020 or UNECWA 17553: 2020).
  - Use of masks during the PE class remains compulsory, **except when the lessons will be given outdoor and the following conditions will be met:**
  - During high intensity exercises, as long as the **safety distance** could be guaranteed at all times;
  - During games where the **safety distance** can be guaranteed at all times;
  - When the teacher will detect that a pupil is having difficulty to breath: he/she will be then **separated from the group** and will be offered the possibility to take off the mask for as long as the teacher will consider it appropriate.

**The possibility to take off masks can, anyway, only be given by the PE teachers responsible for the course.**

- ✓ The mask indicated for the healthy population, whenever possible reusable, will possibly be the type complying with the essential requirements established in article 5.1 of the CSM Order/115/20219 (UNE 0064-1: 2020, UNE 0064-2: 2020, UNE 0065: 2020 or UNECWA 17553: 2020).
- ✓ Compliance with these measures in the School will be favored with health education strategies by tutors and the occupational risk prevention service, and the provision of child-friendly posters and signage that facilitate compliance with the measures. Daily time will be dedicated by the teachers to remembering hygiene and cleaning guidelines. Likewise, the School has put posters on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and minimum safety distance to be maintained throughout the School, located in a strategic and visible way for the information of all school population.

### 3. *Cleaning, disinfection and ventilation of the School:*

- ✓ Cleaning and disinfection measures have been intensified in the School by a specialized company and in accordance with the protocol agreed upon with it, which includes cleaning and disinfection of the facilities at least once a day, reinforcing it in those spaces that need it depending on the intensity of use, such as bathrooms and surfaces of greater use.
- ✓ As far as possible, the tables and desks will be kept free of papers or other objects to facilitate their daily cleaning.
- ✓ The cleaning of the air filters has been reinforced and the ventilation of the air conditioning systems has been increased. The use of fans is not recommended.

- ✓ Natural ventilation is the preferred option. Cross ventilation is recommended, if possible permanently, with opening doors and / or windows opposite or at least on different sides of the room, to promote air circulation and ensure efficient sweeping throughout the space. It is more advisable to distribute the opening points of doors and windows than to concentrate the opening in a single point. The facilities of the center must be ventilated frequently, if possible permanently, or at least 15 minutes at the beginning and at the end of the day, during recess, and whenever possible between classes, also guaranteeing good ventilation in the hallways. The mentioned ventilation time of 15 minutes is only indicative and must be adapted to the conditions and characteristics of each classroom. In situations of high community transmission of SARS-CoV2, the prioritization of natural ventilation should be valued for its effectiveness in preventing transmission over aspects such as the temperature and humidity conditions necessary for comfort or thermal efficiency requirements.
- ✓ If natural ventilation is not sufficient, forced (mechanical) ventilation is used, the supply of outside air must have been increased and the fraction of recirculated air has been reduced, in order to obtain adequate air renewal.
- ✓ If a professional assists in the same space with different students in a consecutive (physiotherapist, speech therapist, nurse ...), the surfaces used will be disinfected and the room will be ventilated at least 5 minutes after each session or according to the parameters mentioned that guarantee adequate ventilation.
- ✓ In the case of programming activities that increase the emission of aerosols such as shouting or singing, it is recommended to carry them out outside whenever possible and, if not, ensure adequate ventilation and maintain distance. Since physical exercise also increases the emission of aerosols, physical education classes will be promoted in outdoor spaces. When they are carried out indoors, it is especially important to use the mask properly, increase the distance and intensify ventilation.

#### 4. Case management:

- ✓ **Students, teachers and other workers** who are in any of the following circumstances will not be able to access the educational center:
  - Present symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
  - Are in a situation of isolation for having tested positive for COVID-19.
  - Wait for the result of an Acute Infection Diagnostic Test (PDIA).
  - They are in preventive home quarantine for being close contact of any person diagnosed with COVID-19.
- ✓ In this circumstance, you should contact the health center that belongs to through the coronavirus web appointment [<http://coronavirusautotest.san.gva.es/cita-coronavirusregistro-va.html>], through the GVA coronavirus App for mobiles or by phone (shown on the SIP card) and you should not go to the educational center until the health professional of reference confirms the absence of risk to the health of the person himself and of the rest of the people of the educational community.

- ✓ Faced with a student who begins to develop symptoms compatible with COVID-19 in the School, the action protocol provided for in the School will be followed (Action Guide for the management of cases, contacts and Covid-19 outbreaks in EEA, ANNEX II)

The **COVID-19 managers** designated in the School are, for their respective stages:

- **Early Education and Primary: Evelyn Olivier** (Assistant Deputy Director Nursery and Primary Cycle).  
Contact email: [ali-assistant-deputy-director-nursery-and-primary-cycle@eursc.eu](mailto:ali-assistant-deputy-director-nursery-and-primary-cycle@eursc.eu)
- **Secondary: Tiago Pita** (Assistant Deputy Director Secondary Cycle).  
Contact Email: [ali-assistant-deputy-director-secondary-cycle@eursc.eu](mailto:ali-assistant-deputy-director-secondary-cycle@eursc.eu)

#### 5. *Cross cutting actions:*

- ✓ Through the occupational risk prevention service agreed with QUIRON, a "Guide to Preventive Action against COVID-19" has been implemented at the School.
- ✓ The management team has reorganized the spaces of the School in order to make the most of the available spaces and comply with the sanitary recommendations.
- ✓ Likewise, in order to minimize the presence of people simultaneously and comply with the recommendations of this protocol, the school entry and exit schedules have been reorganized and made more flexible, as well as the time for recess and playground and dining room. Likewise, the possibility of adopting a mixed modality (a combination of face-to-face and distance education) has been envisaged in case it is necessary due to the poor evolution of the pandemic.
- ✓ The School has equipped itself with the protective equipment and material necessary for the established prevention and hygiene measures.
- ✓ The European School of Alicante has enabled channels to implement proper coordination with the competent administrations. In particular, through the School's medical service and the Security and Safety Officer, a fluid communication channel is maintained with Primary Care and Public Health.
- ✓ In addition, the participation of the AMPA has been promoted to facilitate the transmission of information and the necessary alliances in the adequate implementation of the measures.

#### 6. *Extracurricular and complementary activities:*

- ✓ Attention of the responsables for the **extracurricular and complementary activities** that are organised in the School premises have been reminded on the need to respect the Protocol for the Protection and Prevention against the transmission and contagion of SARS-CoV-2 for educational centers in the Valencian Region for the 2021-2022 academic year in force and requested to confirm that their activities comply with.