



EUROPÄISCHE SCHULE FRANKFURT AM MAIN • Praunheimer Weg 126 • D-60439 Frankfurt



# Hygiene Plan

## During and after a Pandemic

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## Resuming teaching during/after a pandemic with a limited number of pupils

### 1. Guidance/instruction

The hygiene plan of the European School Frankfurt is continuously adapted to the hygiene plan of the State of Hesse. The Hessian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs decided on 23/04/2021 on new regulations with regard to the teaching mode based on the adaptation of the Infection Protection Act (*Infektionsschutzgesetz*) dated 22/04/2021 and the application of the "Federal Emergency Brake (*Bundes-Notbremse*)". The implementation of the respective teaching mode is based on the incidences as described in detail in the letter from the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs dated 23.04.2021.

<https://kultusministerium.hessen.de/schulsystem/umgang-mit-corona-an-schulen/fuer-schulleitungen/schreiben-schulleitungen/aktuelle-information-zum-schul-und-unterrichtsbetrieb-auswirkungen-der-sog-notbremse-des-bundes>. The dates when the respective regulations are applied in Frankfurt am Main are published on the internet by the Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration under the following link <https://soziales.hessen.de>.

From 12 May 2021, the Corona Institution Protection Regulation and the letter from the Hessian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs will apply.

Mode	Incidence	Nursery	P1-P5 + S1	S2 – S5	S6 + S7
2	more than 14 below 100 or 5 days below 50	in-situ teaching	in-situ teaching	in-situ teaching	in-situ teaching
1	below 100	in-situ teaching	in-situ teaching	alternating groups	in-situ teaching
3 - Bundes-notbremse	more than 100 –below 165	Limited in-situ groups <sup>1</sup>	alternating groups	alternating groups	alternating groups (exams in situ)
	more than 165	Closed	Distant Learning	Distant Learning	alternating groups

As the incidence in Frankfurt am Main had exceeded the value of 165 on three consecutive days, school operation at the ESF was organised as shown in mode 3 (federal emergency brake - *Bundesnotbremse*) from 26/04/2021 until 11/05/2021. As the incidence rate in Frankfurt fell below 165 for five consecutive working days, the regulations of mode 2 has to be applied two days later, i.e. as of 12/05/2021. At the ESF, teaching will take place as of 17.05.2021 as stipulated in mode 1 of the above table.

As of 19 April 2021, in situ lessons are organised in grades P1-P5 as well as S1 with alternating classes in divided learning groups, subject to strict compliance with the hygiene measures listed here. S2 – S5 students still remain in the distance learning mode. The classes of the Nursery continue in whole groups. Pupils of S6 and S7 return to school in whole groups.

Teaching and learning in complete learning groups requires strict adherence to the hygiene measures specified herein. The Health Authorities (*Gesundheitsämter*) are responsible for instructing all measures

<sup>1</sup> Limited in-situ groups (*Eingeschränkter Kita-Betrieb*) means: compliance with hygiene rules and a maximum childcare time of 7 hours per day. There is no mask or testing requirement for Nursery school children. Note: The state government's appeal is that parents should care for their children at home if possible.

directly based on the Infection Protection Act (e.g. (partial) closure of a school, quarantine measures of (individual) pupils and teachers).

On re-entry into school pupils were introduced to the hygiene rules already in autumn 2020 (e.g. washing hands, coughing, sneezing, distance, wearing a mouth-nose-protection) by their class teacher and the rules are discussed in a way appropriate to their age. In addition, the importance of protecting other people also in the family environment, especially if they belong to the vulnerable risk groups, will be a subject of the introduction. The responsibility of each individual for the protection of others has to be emphasized.

Furthermore, it is pointed out that there must be no touching, hugging or shaking hands.

Publicly accessible objects such as door handles or elevator buttons should not be touched with the full hand or fingers, if possible use the elbow.

The correct handling of a mouth-nose-protection is explained. If possible, medical masks (so-called surgical masks) should be worn and changed at least daily. Parents are asked to provide their children with fabric bags (no plastic) for storing the masks when they are not being worn. Make sure to use a suitable and age-appropriate mouth and nose protection and to bring along a spare one.

Pupils can enter the school from 8.05 am and go directly to their classes. Please do not come to school much earlier.

The regulations for travelers returning from risk areas must be observed.

It is recommended to use the Corona-Warn-App.

## 2. Test obligation – self-testing in case of in-situ teaching

As of 19 April 2021, in situ teaching is subject to a **compulsory COVID 19 test**. All pupils and school staff are required to either present proof of a negative COVID test (valid for a maximum of 72 hours) or to perform the antigen self-test made available by the school. Students test themselves at school and school staff test themselves at home. Parents also have the option of exempting their child from the testing requirement and opting out of attendance of in situ lessons. Students who are not tested are supervised in distance learning mode. The compulsory antigen self-tests do not apply to Nursery children.

Pupils, teachers and other staff are exempt from this testing obligation after 14 days of the second vaccination, if they have been fully recovered from a COVID-19 infection for at least 28 days and at most 6 months, or if they have fully recovered and after 14 days of the first vaccination. Proof of this must be presented to the school. For further info please also see

<https://soziales.hessen.de/gesundheit/corona-in-hessen/regelungen-fuer-vollstaendig-geimpfte-und-genesene-personen-in-hessen>

## 3. Entrance area – Mouth-Nose-Protection

When entering the school, please disinfect your hands.

Due to the current development of the infection rates in Frankfurt and Hesse, the wearing of a mouth and nose protection (MNP) is generally obligatory as of Monday 22 February 2021 for all persons on the school premises (teachers and other school staff, pupils of all classes of the Primary school and the Secondary school as well as external persons). This obligation includes all rooms and meeting areas in the school building (such as classrooms, subject rooms, sports halls, corridors, hallways, staircases, sanitary facilities, canteen and administration area) and also in the open school grounds (break yard, sports facilities). Care should be taken to ensure adequate rest periods from wearing a mouth and nose protection and its regular change at least on a daily basis.

The children of the Nursery school are exempt from wearing a mouth-nose protection.

To the extent necessary for the regular classroom teaching and permitted according to the infection control regulations of the State of Hesse, it is possible to deviate from maintaining the minimum distance, especially between pupils of an individual class, their teaching and support staff, especially in the Primary school. Generally, a minimum distance of 1.5 m should be maintained between pupils and teaching staff.

Persons who are ill (especially those with fever and infectious diseases) are not allowed to enter the school (see Annex 4 to the Hygiene Plan of the State of Hesse).

#### 4. Parking area / Route guidance

It has to be ensured that not all pupils enter the class rooms and school yards via the corridors at the same time and that distance markings and pathways are observed. At the beginning and at the end of a school day the rules of keeping the minimum distance or wearing a mouth-nose-protection must be observed and in the parking area, the waiting area for student transportation and in the waiting area for local public transport.

#### 5. Classrooms, common rooms, offices and corridors

Teaching is organised in the mode as listed in the table under point 1 and as decided by the health authority according to the respective incidence. Where possible, cross-year groups should not be formed. All other hygiene rules remain in force. Sharing any objects should be avoided as far as possible (no exchange of tools, pens, rulers, etc.). For the pupils of S6 and S7 teaching takes place in situ for the whole year groups.

The Nursery classes continue at school as a fixed group.

With regard to the wearing of a mouth-and-nose-protection please see point 2. Teachers, parents, staff and adults continue to keep a minimum distance from each other and wear a mouth and nose protection.

This obligation applies to all teachers, pedagogical staff and administrative staff outside as well as inside their respective offices if a minimum distance cannot be maintained.

A regular exchange of air is an essential measure to prevent infection. Intensive ventilation must be ensured. Every 20 minutes, a sudden airing or cross-ventilation through completely open windows is to be carried out for a period of 3-5 minutes. Tilt-up ventilation is largely ineffective. If shock ventilation or cross-ventilation is not possible, e.g. because the windows cannot be fully opened, sufficient air exchange must be ensured by prolonged ventilation and opening doors.

These measures not only apply to classrooms, but to all rooms. Organisational measures must also be taken, for example, for staff rooms, secretariats or assembly rooms, which enable the best possible implementation of hygiene rules.

#### 6. Group size

Teaching is organised in the mode as listed in the table under point 1 and as decided by the health authority according to the respective incidence. Subject lessons can take place in the designated subject rooms, as long as they are not rooms for food preparation. For the pupils of S6 and S7 teaching takes place in situ for the whole year groups. In cross-classroom teaching, pupils should be allocated fixed seating areas as far as possible.

#### 7. Organisation of breaks

As far as possible, breaks are organised in separate areas. It is mandatory to wear a mouth-and-nose-protection. This does not apply to Nursery children.

#### 8. Canteen

**In mode 3 (incidence over 165) the school canteens are closed, the kiosk of the Secondary School remains open if possible.** In accordance with the corona hygiene plan for schools in Hesse, paragraph 9 School Catering (as of 11 February 2021), the school canteen may only offer on-site catering in mode 1 (incidence below 100) and mode 2 (incidence 100 - 165). The secondary school canteen is only available for taking meals and the distance rules are observed. No food prepared at home may be distributed to classmates. Water distribution is not possible, self-catering with drinks is therefore recommended.

**Meals are available in mode 1 or 2 in the Nursery and the Secondary School**, the buffet and salad bar are not available for self-service. The meals are pre-portioned. The kitchen staff wears mouth/nose protection and serves the food in compliance with hygiene rules. The pupils of the nursery school (food served in class) eat together with their learning group only. There is currently no catering for the primary school.

## 9. Sport, Music

Physical education and physical activity in all age groups can take place under the protective measures foreseen. In the Primary school physical education takes place only outside. In the Secondary School physical education is organised in classes or courses at the school, if possible, outside, there will be no swimming lessons. The size of the groups must be adapted to the space constraints, especially when teaching in the sports halls. Direct physical contact is to be reduced to the minimum necessary for the specific type of sport. Mouth-and-nose-protection is to be worn in the changing-room. Cross-school sports competitions are suspended until the beginning of the Easter holidays.

It is not permitted to play music together with wind instruments or to sing together in closed rooms.

## 10. School Trips, Teaching Trips and School Excursions

No school trips, teaching trips or school excursions are allowed during this phase.

## 11. School events and parents' meetings

School events are organised on site to a limited extent if hygiene rules are observed, or alternatively take place online.

Parents' meetings can take place online or in situ. Only one parent per pupil is allowed at parents' evenings or parent-teacher meetings at school.

## 12. Risk groups and Quarantine Regulations

### 12.1. Deployment of Staff

School staff are subject to the rules adopted by the Board of Governors of the European Schools on 31 August 2020 with regard to the deployment of "vulnerable staff".

In general, self-protection is possible in any situation if the hygiene and infection prevention measures and the minimum distance are observed.

Teachers who cannot be deployed in face-to-face teaching must perform their duties from at home or from another protected area (including the school).

The Hessian Hygiene Plan no longer provides for a general allocation to a risk group.

### 12.2. Pupils

According to the Corona Hygiene Plan of the Hessian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs as of 28 September 2020, pupils who are exposed to the risk of a serious course of disease due to a pre-existing basic illness or an immune deficiency in the case of an infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus are also subject to compulsory schooling.

Pupils that are exposed to the risk of a severe course of disease due to an individual medical assessment (to be updated every three months) in the case of an illness can generally attend in situ teaching in existing learning groups, if special hygiene measures (in particular distance regulation) are applied or can be organised for them.

At the same time, there is the optional right to exempt these pupils from the obligation to attend in situ teaching. A medical certificate must be presented. For the pupils concerned, distance learning replaces in situ teaching; however, they are not entitled to individual forms of teaching.

Siblings or children of employees: Pupils are not allowed to attend classes and other regular events at the school if they themselves or members of their household show symptoms of infection with the corona virus. The same applies if members of the same household are subject to an individually ordered quarantine due to a possible infection with the virus (see annex 4 – Rules for the arrangement of quarantine).

### **13. Conferences / In-service trainings**

Conferences and in-service trainings do not take place or are organised digitally; only essential meetings are held.

### **14. Sanitary area**

The school provides sufficient liquid soap, possibilities of hand disinfection and disposable towels. Disinfectant dispensers are available per floor. Gathering of people in the sanitary area is to be avoided.

### **15. Annexes**

1. Hygiene Etiquettes
2. Survey – Who is allowed to come to school? (Annex 4 to the Hygiene Plan of the Hessian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs)
3. Chart – Antigen Self testing procedure