

Community Plan 2023/2024 (COVID 19)

Udon Thani International School

Created - July, 2020

Updated - 27 March, 2023

Reviewed - 17 August, 2023

Effective - 21 August, 2023

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Message from the School

Covid has become endemic in Thailand and the Ministry of Education (MOE) has removed all prior policies and procedures related to Covid-19 in schools from 3 October, 2022. Our aim for 2023/2024 is to move towards a situation where Covid is treated as a normal sickness within the school under existing policies.

Our Community Plan has now been updated to follow the most recent guidance from the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and with the goal of returning to learning as usual.

Personal Prevention Protocol

The personal prevention protocols continue to be our best defence from Covid-19 on a day to day basis. All members of the UDIS learning community should follow these personal protocols:

- Mask use is voluntary for staff, parents and students
 - Masks are encouraged for those high risk for Covid-19
 - Masks must be worn for asymptomatic Covid-19 cases
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds regularly
- Observe quarantine measures where applicable
- People with symptoms stay at home and don't enter the school
 - Encourage ATK testing when symptoms are present
 - Inform school of any positive test results for Covid-19

School prevention procedures

Summary of procedures for 2023/2024 (from 21 August)

The school enacts these protocols immediately, with re-evaluation as needed:

- Parents and visitors are allowed on campus
- Mask use is voluntary for staff and students
 - Masks are encouraged for those high risk for Covid-19
 - Masks must be worn for asymptomatic Covid-19 cases
 - Masks are encouraged while on the school bus
- Assemblies and events are organised as usual
- School areas will be cleaned and disinfected as usual
- Parents are notified of positive cases within classes and are recommended to complete an ATK test for their child but there is no longer any mandatory check of these
 - If your child has symptoms you are encouraged to test them

Screening procedures for entrance to the school

All people who are entering the school must:

- Not have a fever
- Wear a mask if they have these symptoms
 - Cough, sore throat and shortness of breath
- Not be required to quarantine as per the 'Procedures for Covid positive test results)

Entrance and exit procedures

The following are our regular procedures for entry and exit of school:

- For arrivals from 7:50-8:15am
 - Must meet the screening procedures for entrance to the school as noted in the preceding section

Hygiene

- Masks and shields are voluntary
 - Masks are encouraged for those high risk for Covid-19
 - Asymptomatic staff, or parents, who have tested positive are required to wear a mask while at school
- Hand washing
 - All students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly across the day

Social distancing

There is no longer any requirement for social distancing at school.

Cafeteria

- Lunch will continue being served within the cafeteria with staggered lunch times (EY, Y1-4 and Y5-11).

Break times

- The break times will proceed on their usual schedules
- Snacks are served to the EY, PY and MY zones for students to eat outdoors or under cover of the buildings

Swimming pool

Use of the swimming pool is open for all students without restriction.

Transport

- Students must be free of sickness before getting on the bus (please see screening procedures before entrance to school)
- Staff and students on the bus are encouraged to wear a mask in line with Ministry of Public Health advice for public transport

Suspected/confirmed positive case

If a person becomes sick during the day with suspected symptoms of Covid-19:

- They will be taken to the sickbay and examined by the nurse
 - If there are any family members at the school they must also go to the sickbay at the discretion of the School Nurse
 - The School Nurse will ask for a rapid Covid test to be completed at their discretion
 - If the results of that test are positive then the Nurse will contact parents
- The School Nurse will then decide if the student or family members need to return home, if so:
 - The parents are asked to pick up the student and any family members at the school as soon as they can
 - If Covid-19 is suspected then the student or family members will be bound by the 'if a person tests positive for Covid-19' section
 - If a person is tested for Covid-19 and tests positive, they must alert the school immediately

If a person tests positive for Covid-19

If the school is notified that a person has received a positive diagnosis for Covid-19 within any particular class, the school will:

- Enforce any quarantine periods that apply for 'procedures for Covid-19 positive test results' for the affected person
- Contact parents that a case has been reported within their class and recommend that students complete ATK testing if they have symptoms
- Clean and disinfect the classroom as usual

Close contact definition

A contact is defined as anyone who had direct contact, or was within 2 metres for at least 15 minutes, with a person infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, even if the person with the confirmed infection did not have symptoms.

Procedures for close contacts to confirmed Covid-19 cases

When a person has a positive diagnosis for Covid-19 then high risk close contacts to that person are encouraged to complete ATK testing if they have symptoms.

Procedures for Covid positive test results

For all cases, if a positive test result is recorded using an antigen test kit or PCR test, then a person can contact their local hospital for advice on treatment and medication.

Symptomatic cases and positive cases in students

Quarantines have been set for 5 days from the positive test result if a person is symptomatic or they are a student. After the 5 days are complete, an affected person can return to school when they are symptom free or at the discretion of the School Nurse.

Asymptomatic cases in adults

There is no mandatory quarantine for adults with positive Covid-19 test results. However, if they are on campus they must follow Ministry of Public Health requirements that include wearing a mask, social distancing (of at least 1 metre), regular hand washing etc.

Communication and wellbeing guidelines

Communication guidelines

The school will

- Keep the community updated at all times around Covid-19 and its impact on the school
- Protect the confidentiality of those affected by Covid-19 as much as we can to the general community
- Send out communication in different forms to the community, e.g. Email, Toddle, Newsletters, Facebook etc.
- Seek to educate the community about Covid-19 and how to protect themselves, e.g. mask wearing, social distancing
- Inform the students about Covid-19 and how to protect themselves based on the school's policies and procedures

Wellbeing guidelines

The school will:

- Explain the measures we are putting in place with staff and discuss any changes put in place as part of these measures
 - Provide any extra systems that may be needed to support staff wellbeing

- [Our Frontline: Wellbeing toolkit for educators](#) brings together a range of resources and support for staff.
- If staff are feeling overwhelmed or anxious please contact your Line Manager or Mr. John Kelly, the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Address the wellbeing of students by utilising the PSPE lessons during school to inform students about Covid
 - There are further mental health [resources here](#) that can be used

Adaptive Learning Plans

The aim is for all students of UDIS to continue their learning and have equal access to the school curriculum under all conditions. The school's aim at all times will be to offer in-person learning.