

American International School of Abuja

COVID-19 Preparedness Guide

INTRODUCTION

The AISA Campus Reopening Task Force is pleased to share with our community, the AISA Covid-19 Preparedness Guide .

Over the weeks ahead our process for reopening the AISA campus during the COVID-19 pandemic will be grounded in three important principles:

- 1.AISA will continue to remain true to our mission and provide students with a world-class education.
- 2.The AISA community will take collective ownership of our health and safety standards and practices.
- 3.AISA will protect our community by assessing risks and adapting our program accordingly.



AISA COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



In addition to upholding these three important principles, we have been and will continue to consult with other schools and public health organizations, including the Nigerian Centre of Disease Control (NCDC) and FCT Ministry of Health. AISA will continue to coordinate with local health officials and comply with guidelines and directives issued by Nigeria’s Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and state and local Government.

The AISA Covid-19 Preparedness Guide provides the community with an overview of the 2020–21 school opening procedures. The guide is a brief summary of what to expect as we open our classrooms and campus. It describes options for learning and teaching through the first months of this academic year. AISA is committed to serve our students with programs that are engaging, flexible, and responsive to the current crisis.

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Now more than ever, we will be drawing upon our collective strength as a community in dealing with the challenges before us. While this school year may well appear less orthodox than others, we will continue to deliver upon our mission and vision, and strive to maintain our standards of excellence, regardless of how our educational program evolves and adapts over the weeks ahead.

MISSION:

Challenge, Collaborate, Empower – Inspiring Global Citizens to be Lifelong Learners

VISION:

To be a world class international school that develops students' skills, knowledge and character to enable them to achieve their full potential and pursue their dreams.



AISA Core Values:

- ❖ All people have equal inherent worth and dignity.
- ❖ Collaboration and consensus-building contribute to an effective community.
- ❖ Embracing diversity strengthens individuals and unifies our community.
- ❖ Continuous growth and perseverance are fundamental in pursuing one's goals.
- ❖ Intentionally building trust facilitates dependable relationships.



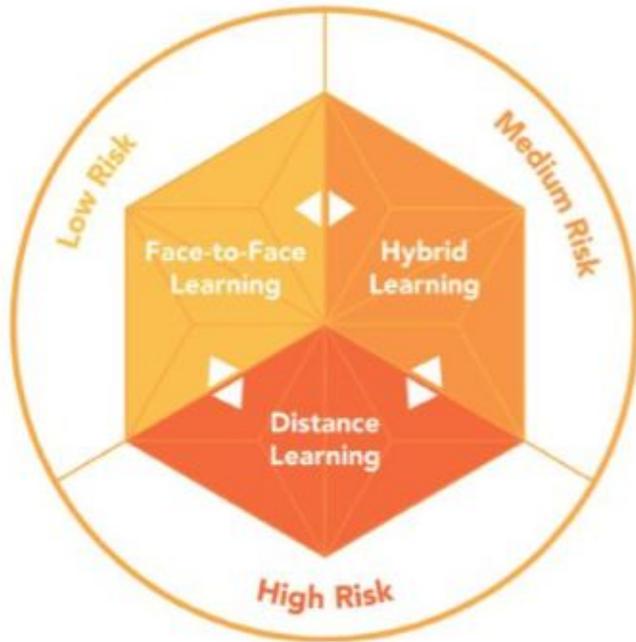
LEVEL OF RISK DETERMINES MODELS

As the health and safety of our community will always be our highest priority, risk assessments will determine the learning model to be utilized at any given time. As these assessments will vary over time, so will our mode of learning.

Should we assess risk as **HIGH**, our campus will be closed and we will move to Distance Learning.

If we assess risk as **MEDIUM**, we recognize that we need more robust preventative hygiene measures coupled with the reduction of student density on campus, which means we would move to a **Hybrid Learning model** of Distance Learning and on-campus Face to Face Learning (classroom learning coupled with distance learning).

Finally, if we assess risk as **LOW**, we are confident that conditions are appropriate to reopen school entirely, welcoming all students back on campus concurrently with realistic hygiene and safety protocols in place.



LEVEL OF RISK DETERMINES MODELS



Risk Level	External Considerations
High (Distance Learning Model)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● State of Emergency or government directives● Guidance from CDC, WHO, Nigeria's Ministries of Health indicates high risk● High degree of medical uncertainty● Infection rates locally are rising and/or remaining at concerning levels● Known infections within AISA community● AISA is not confident it can effectively mitigate risk and ensure safety● School benchmarking indicates many schools have closed their campuses
Medium (Hybrid Learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Government guidance calls for the gradual reopening of schools● Guidance from CDC, WHO, and Nigeria's/FCT Ministries of Health indicates risk● Degree of medical uncertainty exists● Infection rates locally are confined and/or traceable● AISA is confident in its ability to mitigate risk with enhanced measures● School benchmarking indicates schools are opening with precautions
Low (On-Campus Classroom Learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Government guidance encourages schools to fully reopen.● Guidance from CDC, WHO, and Nigeria's/FCT Ministries of Health indicate low risk● Degree of medical certainty, including easy access to reliable testing● Infection rates locally are declining and traceable● AISA is confident in its ability to mitigate risk when school is fully open● School benchmarking indicates most schools opening their campuses fully

MODEL 1: ON-CAMPUS LEARNING



Once our campus reopens our community will follow strict health, hygiene, and safety practices aligned with local regulations and international best practices.

Students and parents must work in partnership with AISA and take joint responsibility for our health and safety.

Guidelines set down will be in the interests of all stakeholders and your support in meeting these guidelines will be paramount in ensuring our collective well-being.

MODEL 1: ON-CAMPUS LEARNING



We expect to reopen the campus gradually to limit risk and to safely learn to live by a new set of procedures and practices. Options that are currently being considered for implementation include;

Calendar adjustments as required

Amended timing of the school day to support health and safety practices

Staggered pick up and drop off times at gates

Limited campus access for visitors, vendors and parents

Optional bag lunch program, transition to hot lunch based on health and safety

Transportation Protocols

Delayed After School Activities/Saturday Sports Program

Modified campus athletics and activities based on health and safety guidelines to be implemented

Rigorous cleaning and hygiene protocols

Self-reported temperature checks, travel histories

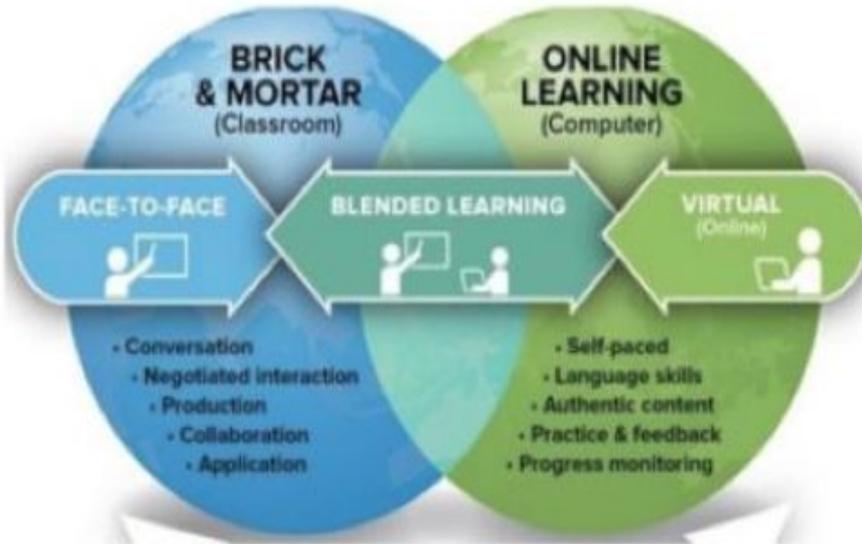
Temperature checks and hand sanitizer upon arrival

Suspected COVID-19 designated clinic locations

Physical distancing measures in all indoor and outdoor spaces; limited student movement or mixing

Occupancy limits of indoor spaces, including bathrooms

MODEL 2: HYBRID LEARNING



Hybrid (Blended) learning is an approach in which some students learn, in part, from a distance or remotely where they have some control over time, place, path, and/or pace. Other students learn, in part, in a supervised learning environment on the AISA campus. Some students (families) and teachers may be compelled to teach and learn remotely from home due to various reasons beyond their control. Students who are not on campus will continue learning synchronously and/or asynchronously.

In addition to on-campus learning, students will also engage in synchronous and asynchronous learning. School leadership decisions or government policies regarding distancing and group sizes may guide limitations to the number of students on campus at any one time.

MODEL 2: HYBRID LEARNING (Cont'd)



Synchronous Learning

Students will achieve learning objectives and stay connected by video conferencing with teachers. Teachers will provide instruction and feedback to the whole class, small groups, and individual students.

Asynchronous Learning

Students will achieve learning objectives independently and at their own pace using carefully chosen curated resources (recorded lessons, video tutorials, etc.).

Sample Blended Learning Scenarios

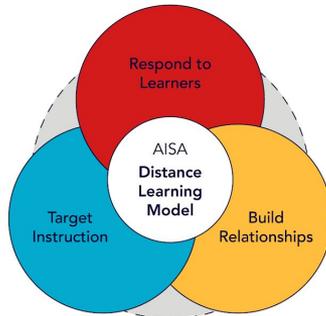
The AISA Reopening Task Force is reviewing several options to gradually open the AISA campus using a blended learning model. Some of these options include:

1. Students are on campus one week and will continue learning at home the next week.
2. Students are on campus on alternate days and are learning at home when they are not on campus.
3. Some students are on campus in the morning, and others in the afternoon. All students are learning at home when they are not on campus.
4. A student who cannot come to campus for a short or medium period of time will be able to continue learning at home with synchronous and asynchronous activities.

MODEL 3: DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance Learning Model

Definition	Asynchronous	Synchronous	Office Hours
	Learning experiences and resources for students to engage with at their own pace (videos, discussion boards, shared documents, online resources, and more).	Time when the teacher and students are online in live video conference together (checking-in, reviewing learning and goals, making connections, clarifying, following-up, building community).	Time designated for teachers to answer email and schedule virtual meetings (outlined for homeroom teachers, world language teachers, specialist teachers and support staff).
Tool	Seesaw, Google Classroom	Zoom, Google Meets	Email, Chat



AISA's Distance Learning Model will blend synchronous and asynchronous learning using schedules and curricula that provide academic rigor balanced with well-being. During the last part of the 2019-20 school year, we learned a great deal from students, parents, and faculty about remote learning. We will apply the lessons learned from feedback to our distance learning program.

AISA will continue to nurture our culture and cultivate a sense of belonging by supporting the academic and social-emotional growth of our learners. When learning cannot happen on campus, we will provide students with learning experiences that support our mission and beliefs. This could happen if schools in Federal Capital State are ordered closed for a period of time. It could happen for a group of students if Nigerian or other national borders are closed. A family that is not in Abuja can also participate in our remote learning program.

MODEL 3: DISTANCE LEARNING

AISA teachers are deeply committed to using the best practices below to engage students in a quality remote learning experience.

Orientation of Platforms and Tools	Safeguarding	Differentiated Instruction
Orient students to learning platforms and technology tools; provide technical support and instruction.	Implement security guidelines and behavioral expectations; monitor responsible use of technologies.	Design and deliver learning experiences that meet the needs of all learners, through challenge, extension, scaffolding and support.
Synchronous Learning	Asynchronous Learning	Ongoing Feedback
Utilize video conferencing (synchronous) to promote student connection and provide instruction and feedback in real-time.	Develop, source and utilize rich content (e.g. video tutorials) aligned with learning objectives that allow students to work at their own pace.	Provide continual feedback to improve student outcomes.
Health and Wellness	Service Learning	Project Based Learning
Engage students in dialogue about self care and their own health wellness.	Provide experiences that allow students to serve the school and the greater community	Provide students learning experiences to include standard-oriented projects that highlight authenticity and adult connections.

DIGITAL PLATFORMS

	<p>Seesaw is a powerful learning platform that allows teachers to post assignments, video lessons, view student responses and communicate with families all in one place. Students can show what they know using photos, videos, drawings, text, and links to online resources. Teachers control what is shared between students.</p>
 <p>Google Classroom</p>	<p>Google Classroom is a free web based service, developed by Google for schools, that allows teachers to create, distribute, collect and grade assignments in a paperless way. Google classroom is the primary avenue for sharing files, links and resources between teachers and students on a daily basis.</p>
 <p>PowerSchool Powering Brighter Futures</p>	<p>PowerSchool is a web-based student information system. It may be accessed from any place the parent/guardian can access the Internet. It provides parents, students and teachers with a tool to communicate student performance such as grades and reports.</p>
	<p>Zoom is a video conferencing platform that allows teachers to host online meetings with their students. Teachers can record lessons and class meetings and post a link in Seesaw so that students can access the recording any time. With Zoom, teachers can share their screen and present using a Google presentation or Web site.</p>
	<p>Google Meet is a video conferencing platform that is part of Google Suite for Education. MS/HS teachers use Google Meets to communicate with students and parents.</p>

LEARNING AT AISA



As we anticipate that the situation in Abuja will be dynamic and may change throughout the school year.

We expect that the school will be shifting between these models intermittently and families should do all that they can to prepare for this eventuality.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY



Strategies are being developed in the following areas including but not limited to:

Facility Cleaning	Facility cleaning and disinfection will be increased, especially common areas, high-touch surfaces, and high-traffic zones.
Health Screenings	Monitoring will be in place for checking temperatures and symptoms, accompanied by contact tracing when appropriate. An isolation room at our school clinic is being created for use as needed.
Quarantine Requirements and Health Declaration Forms	AISA faculty/staff, vendors, students and community members will meet or exceed US, international and local health guidelines and requirements.
Hand Washing	Hand washing and use of hand sanitizer will be ritualized throughout the day.
Physical Distancing	Space design, furniture layout, queues, and transit within the building will be configured to maintain social distancing as much as possible. There will be capacity limits to allow for social distancing in classrooms, meeting rooms and all dining spaces.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY



Strategies are being developed in the following areas including but not limited to:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Students, teachers and staff will most likely be required to wear masks or face shields during the school day. Gloves, face masks, gowns, and other PPE will be available as needed.
Reduced Density & Mixing	We will reduce density and student mixing through a variety of strategies such as rotating at-home and on-campus schedules, limited movement within buildings, meals in classrooms, etc.
Campus Access	Access to campus for parents and visitors will be carefully evaluated, limited and monitored.
Social-Emotional Learning	SEL programs at the school will be adapted and intensified to support resilience, reduce anxiety and support students and families in this dynamic and uncertain time.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)



❖ When will AISA look to reopen the school campus?

At this time, AISA plans to gradually reopen campus which will be dependent upon directives from Government authorities and the level of risk nationwide. The AISA Campus Reopening Task Force will continue to work over the weeks ahead to prepare to reopen the campus. The task force is also preparing for the possibility of waves of interruption to on-campus learning. If this is the case, then AISA will shift to remote learning immediately.

❖ Once the campus reopens what safety measures will be put in place to safeguard students and teachers?

The AISA Campus Reopening Task Force is currently developing protocols to screen students and employees who enter campus. The task force is investigating additional reliable thermal scanners and other tools. The task force is considering staggered school days to minimize the number of students who enter each day in order to ensure appropriate physical distancing. Along with the use of face masks and/or face shields.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)



❖ How will safety measures be enforced including the use of face masks?

The AISA faculty and staff will be prepared to ensure that physical distancing expectations are clear and reinforced with all of our students. Student health and well-being is our top priority. If it is recommended that our younger students wear masks then we will make this part of their routine and teach them to do so. We will reinforce this habit in a positive and proactive manner. Students of all ages from all over the world have been asked to wear masks in their classrooms. We will continue to follow health advice from multiple sources, however, we believe that this is a manageable and achievable health and safety requirement.

❖ How will social distancing be reinforced?

Students will be assigned seats positioned with ample space to support physical distancing while learning. Capacity numbers will be posted on the door to every indoor space.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)



❖ How will AISA deal with community members who have traveled overseas?

AISA will develop flexible attendance policies to support families. At this time, all families should plan to limit non-essential travel. International travelers are currently required to do a two-week quarantine. Should we be able to start school on-campus or through a hybrid model, we would require proof of a fourteen day quarantine prior to beginning.

❖ How was the distance learning model developed?

Our model is based on research and study around online instructional delivery models. The prevailing research has led AISA to develop a balanced model of learning that allows students to work independently at their own pace, while maintaining home routines that distribute online/screen time, physical activities, non-online/screen time learning and, of course, family time across the days and weeks of online learning. In addition, whole class synchronous instruction limits a teacher's ability to differentiate instruction and provide students with personalized feedback.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)



❖ How will AISA manage staffing if teacher travel is affected?

Some of our teachers may not be able to return to Abuja or to campus for reasons related to health or travel restrictions. We are staffed in a way that we feel comfortable with our ability to support on-campus learning and instruction.

❖ Will children still have access to specialist subjects?

AISA plans to offer art, music, and physical education classes. Our plans are in development and we are using the best available public health guidance as a resource. These programs are vital to our mission, but will need to be adapted to remain safe.

❖ What steps will be taken when any student on campus displays Covid-19 symptoms?

The planning team will be working on specific protocols to address this scenario, however, these students will be managed with the utmost discretion, in order to avoid any stigmatisation. Additionally education programs will be developed that address the need for empathy and compassion throughout our community during this time.

CONTACT US



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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