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إلى المدارس

A PARENT'S GUIDE FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

إلى المدارس



| Will Distance Learning be Offered as an Option?

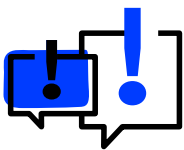
While this year, schools have the discretion not to offer distance learning as a model, they must still provide it for:

- Students who have medical conditions classified as high-risk in relation to COVID-19, supported by a medical certificate from a locally approved healthcare provider.
- Students aged 16 and above who are not vaccinated.
- Students enrolled in schools that have chosen to offer distance learning as an option.

Are there any implications on school fees?

Schools reserve the right to charge the full tuition fee to all students irrespective of the mode of attendance (i.e., face-to-face or distance learning).

You should not expect a fee increase, as fee increases have only been approved for schools in exceptional circumstances.



If your children's class or school is closed temporarily due to COVID-19 cases, their school will shift to distance learning until it is safe to return.



| Are the Safety Requirements to Return to School Still the Same?

To ensure that we begin the new academic year by being mindful of everyone's safety and well-being, children will have to meet three types of requirements:

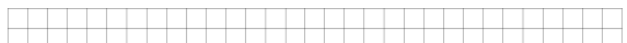
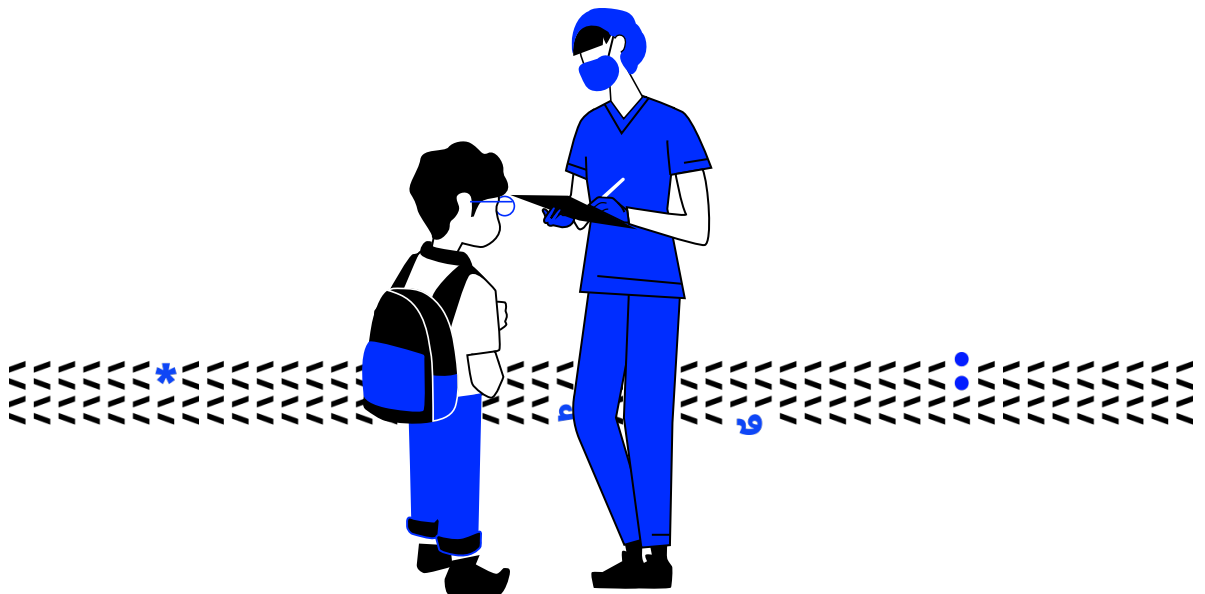
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PCR testing requirements

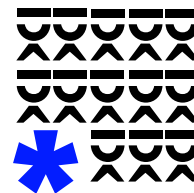
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Vaccination requirements

3 ●●●
Requirements for students who traveled abroad during the summer

Details on each are provided in the next few pages.

You may also have to fill out and submit some forms to the school prior to the start of the semester. Check out page 22 for all relevant links.





1. PCR Testing Requirements

WHO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A COVID-19 PCR TEST?

- All children aged 12 and above are required to show a valid negative PCR test result to enter the school.
- In addition to students, staff will also require valid negative PCR test results to access the school premises.
- Students of Determination are exempt from this requirement.

HOW OFTEN WILL MY CHILDREN BE TESTED?

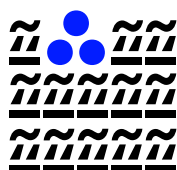
We are committed to the health and safety of our school community. Therefore, to identify any infections in a timely manner, all students aged 12 and above, teachers and staff will be tested every 2 weeks.

In addition, following each of the main holidays (Winter, spring and summer breaks as well as both Eid holidays) throughout the Academic Year, students ages 12+, teachers and staff will be required to have a PCR with 96-hour maximum validity.

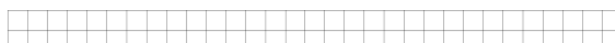
Any changes and updates on required testing may change based on the health situation and will be communicated to you through your children's school.

WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD I TAKE MY CHILDREN FOR A PCR TEST?

- Similar to last year, students will be required to take a PCR test before returning to school.
- The date and schedule for PCR testing will be shared with your child's school directly.
- Please stay in touch with your child's school to have him/her take the PCR test on the designated date to ensure that your child is allowed on the school premises.



Please make sure you begin regular PCR testing for your child as soon as he/she turns 12 in line with your school's requirements to enable them to continue attending school physically.





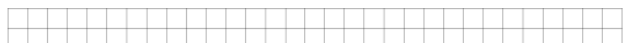
2. Vaccination Requirements

For the safety of the school community, 89% of the educational staff in all private schools in Abu Dhabi have chosen to vaccinate themselves to date.

We encourage you to play your part by choosing to vaccinate your children.

ARE VACCINES REQUIRED FOR ALL CHILDREN?

- Students between the ages of 3 - 15 years do not have to be vaccinated to attend school.
- Students aged 16+ **must be vaccinated** (completed 28 days after the second dose, with a UAE-approved vaccine) to enter the school premises if they wish to attend school physically according to local health authorities.
 - If they have already started their vaccination journey (1st dose complete) and will return to schools physically (face-to-face learning mode), you must contact your school for information on next steps, before the school's reopening date. We will be updating them with the latest guidelines.
- The vaccination status must be verified on the ALHOSN app.
- Students aged 16+ can access the school premises if they are exempted from vaccination.
 - Exemptions should be verified on ALHOSN, or through an official letter from SEHA, or other DOH-authorized providers.
- If your child turns 16 during the academic year, they are required to take the first dose of the vaccine within 4 weeks of turning 16 and they must complete their second dose on time.
- If you choose not to vaccinate your child aged 16+, they can only attend school through distance learning.
 - They will only be allowed to enter the school on the day of any high-stakes exam, with proof of a valid negative PCR test.
 - The validity of the PCR test is 96 hours unless otherwise communicated by your school depending on the health situation at the time.
 - If you do not send your child to school for an exam, this might have negative consequences on your child's academic achievement.





WHERE CAN I GET MY CHILDREN VACCINATED?

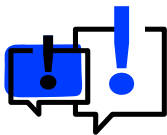
There are over 100 locations around the Emirate that offer the COVID-19 vaccines for children. Please see a list of these facilities and more details on the Department of Health's (DOH) [website](#).

Please note:

- Pfizer-BioNTech is available to children ages 12+
- Sinopharm is available to children ages 3 to 17 years old

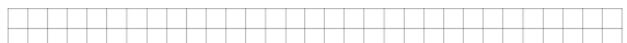
WHAT IF MY CHILD WAS VACCINATED OUTSIDE THE UAE?

The UAE accepts all vaccines as listed on the government's [website](#). If your child has been vaccinated outside of the UAE, please ensure that they carry a proof of vaccination to the school until a system is launched to verify and integrate international vaccination records with ALHOSN.



To enable children aged 12+ to get vaccinated, we have organized vaccine pop-ups.

For updates on dates and locations, check our Instagram

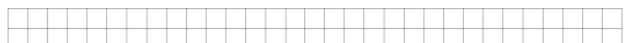




3. Requirements After International Travel

If your children travelled outside of the UAE over the summer break and you chose a physical return to school:

- You must ensure they follow the quarantine/testing requirements set forth by the Department of Health and NCEMA.
- You must sign and submit a Travel Declaration Form to your child's school.
 - Schools are required to collect these forms before the term starts, so please cooperate with your school and provide the necessary documents and information.





How will my Child's Safety be Managed at School?

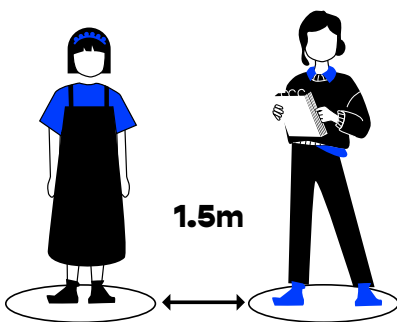
Schools will maintain the strictest safety measures in accordance with ADEK's Private Schools Reopening Policies and Guidelines for Academic Year 2021/22.

In addition, ADEK will conduct regular inspections and monitoring to ensure schools' compliance.

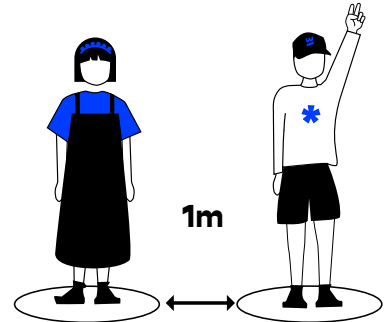
Safety measures include:

- * **Physical Distancing**
- * **Masks**
- * **Student Groups**
- * **Moving to distance learning in case of COVID-19 cases**

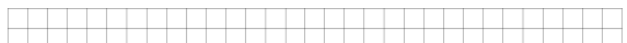
Physical Distancing



Students must maintain a physical distance of **1-meter** from other students, staff and visitors. This was reduced from last year's **1.5-meter** distance.



Teachers or staff members who require access to multiple student groups as part of their job will maintain a 2-meter distance from others.





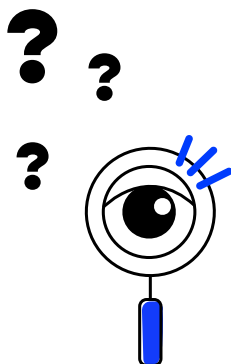
Masks

Your children will be expected to wear a mask throughout the school day, except if they:

- Are in Kindergarten
- Cannot wear a mask due to medical conditions.
 - In this case, you will be expected to provide the school with a medical certificate and have your child wear a face shield instead.

Student Groups

- To improve contact tracing, reduce transmission risk and avoid unnecessary shifts to distance learning, students may be arranged into different groups by the school.
- Overall, the entire school will be grouped into macrobubbles.
- Schools can choose to arrange students into classes or bubbles:
 - Classes
 - All students will observe 1-meter physical distancing from each other
 - The maximum number of students allowed:
 - 25 students in a KG class
 - 30 students in Grade 1/Year 2 - Grade 12/Year 13
 - Bubbles
 - Bubbles are only allowed for students in KG, Grade 1/Year 2 and Grade 2/Year 3.
 - The maximum number of students allowed in a bubble is 16.

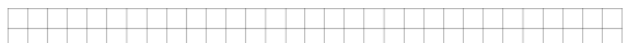


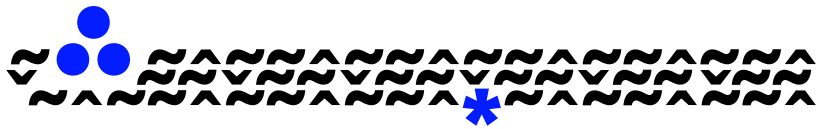
What's a Macrobubble?

A macrobubble is a group of students and staff which is physically isolated from other groups during the school day.

What's a Bubble?

A bubble is a small group of students who do not have to observe physical distancing from each other but are isolated from other “bubbles” of students.



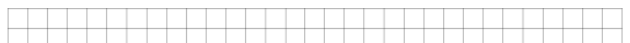
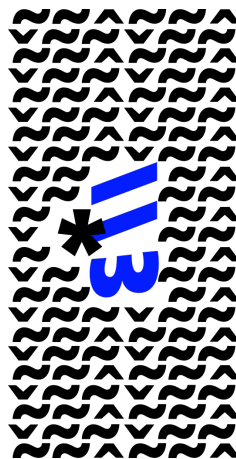


Moving to Distance Learning in the Case of Covid-19 Cases

To minimize disruption and unnecessary shifts to distance learning, we have received approval for updated criteria to shift students to distance learning in case COVID-19 cases are detected in school.

Criteria	Required Action
2 positive cases in a class	Shift class to distance learning
4 classes shifted to distance learning And/or 8 cases in a macrobubble	Shift macrobubble to distance learning
3 macrobubbles shifted to distance learning And/or 24 cases in a school	Shift school to distance learning

Those who are identified as “direct contacts” of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be isolated based on the contact tracing and isolation protocols of the Department of Health.





| How will the School Care for my Child's Wellbeing?

As your children return to school, a range of activities have been approved so that they can engage with their friends and pursue their interests. These activities include:

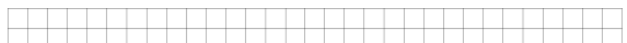
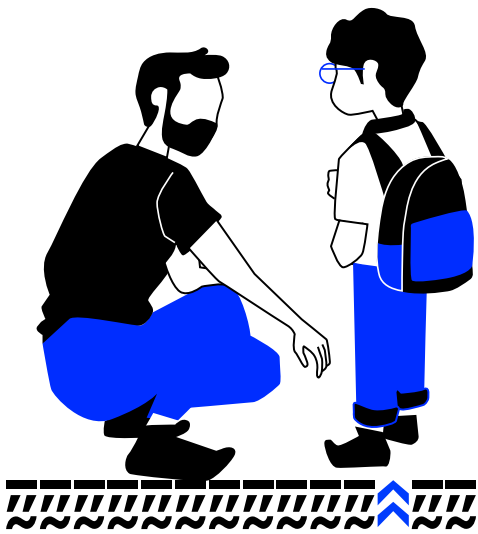
- 1. Play and breaks outside of the classroom**
- 2. Participation in cultural activities**
- 3. Access to canteens and cafeterias**
- 4. Access to prayer rooms**
- 5. Participation in physical education and sports**

Last year:

Many activities were limited to ensure a safe environment for all students.

In Academic Year 2021/22:

Physical education classes, cultural activities, use of playground equipment, access to prayer rooms and canteens can be provided to cater for student wellbeing while ensuring safety.



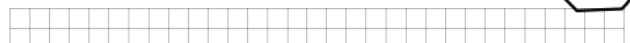
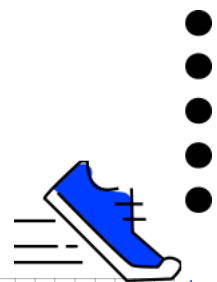
Physical Education and Sports

- Your children can resume Physical Education lessons in school this academic year.
- Schools have received detailed instructions on how to carry out physical education activities with risk mitigation measures, as shown in the table below.
 - If you would like to learn more about these measures, please ask your school Principal.



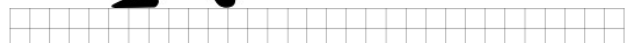
Sport Type	Definition	Examples	Risk Mitigation Controls					
			Mask	Physical Distance (PD)	Adapted Play	Outdoors	Indoors	
							Large Space	Small Space
High Intensity	<i>Moderate- to vigorous-intensity activity practiced with close contact between participants</i>	Rugby, American football, football, lacrosse, hockey, cricket, basketball, baseball, group dance, etc.	✗	2.5 m	✓	✓	✓	✗
Medium Intensity	<i>Moderate-to vigorous-intensity activity</i>	Singles tennis, individual running events, volleyball, active yoga etc.	✗	2.5 m	✗	✓	✓	✗
Low Intensity	<i>Light-intensity activity practiced with little to no contact</i>	Archery, golf, low-intensity yoga, etc.	✓	1 m	✗	✓	✓	✓

- You may choose not to allow your child to participate in swimming. The school will provide them with an alternative activity during the swimming period.
- Your school will require a written request from you if you would like your child to wear a mask during medium and high-intensity sports.

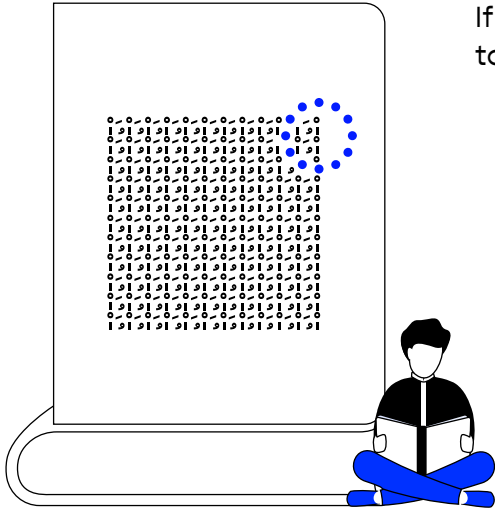


| How will Academic Quality be Assured?

- **Standardized assessments** will be administered starting this semester for students in Grade 3/Year 4 and above to identify learning gaps.
 - Your child’s school will contact you regarding specific guidelines for remote and on-site assessments.
 - The results of these assessments will be shared with you to inform you of your child’s progress in school.
- If your child is attending school through distance learning, please ensure that he/she takes all necessary assessments and exams at home. Not doing so may impact their academic outcomes, and may result in additional repercussions at the school's discretion
- Schools will also deliver extra interventions to students who have experienced severe learning loss due to online learning.
- If your children are attending school **in full distance learning mode:**
 - At least 50% of their distance learning time will be spent learning through a “live” or real time session.
 - This will involve a teacher and your child/other students interacting at the same time in a shared video or audio session, allowing for on-the-spot feedback and communication.
 - Teachers’ cameras will be switched on during live lessons to encourage and increase interaction.
 - All live sessions shall be recorded, (without featuring any students) and will be accessible to you and your children.



| My Child has Additional Needs. How Can the School Support Them?



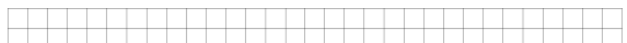
If your child is a student of determination, reach out to his/her school. They will:

1. Conduct a risk assessment specific to your child.
2. Co-develop an individual education plan with you to best support your child.
3. To the extent possible, accommodate your child to ensure that he/she is provided with an equitable learning environment and experience.



| What about Transportation?

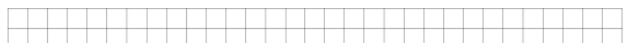
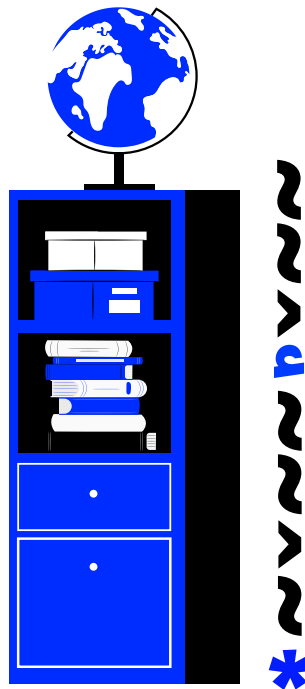
- Safety precautions such as wearing masks, sanitizing regularly, and checking of symptoms prior to boarding the school bus will be followed to ensure your child's safety.
- If your children carpool with children from other families, please keep track of your daily arrangements, which may be used for contact tracing by the school or health authorities.





| What Support Can I Expect from my Children’s School?

- Your school will appoint a “COVID-19 Focal Person”, responsible for communicating with you in the case of any COVID-related incident at school.
 - Only trust information from the officially appointed focal person.
 - If you personally know someone who may have tested positive for COVID-19, please protect their identity and personal information, and only share it with the appointed focal person.
- If your children are attending school via distance learning, you can expect the school to:
 - Actively involve you in the distance learning process.
 - Contact you regularly to provide feedback on your children’s progress during distance learning.



| More Questions or Concerns?

We trust that the information we have provided you in this guide has helped you understand on how we can collectively contribute to a safe and successful reopening of schools in Academic Year 2021/22.

For further information:

- You can view the detailed Private Schools Reopening Policies and Guidelines for Academic Year 2021/22 on our [website](#).



STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND PREVIOUS REGULATIONS THROUGH THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES

[ADEK Parent Resource Hub webpage](#)

ADEK Parents Hotline: 800ADEK (8002335)

ADEK Social media channels:



[ADEK insta](#)



[ADEK tweet](#)

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Please note that these guidelines may change based on the health situation in the Emirate and subsequent decisions by NCEMA and DOH.

