

HEALTH INFORMATION: [CORONAVIRUS] Vientiane International French School

The Coronavirus is a global concern which calls upon us to place the safety and health of the LFIV community in the center of our preoccupations. Now, more than ever, we must take the appropriate measures. Another of our concerns is to reduce the impact of this epidemic on our children as much as possible by continuing to teach them.

We are following the development of the epidemic very closely and are in daily contact with the competent Lao authorities as well as the French Embassy in Laos. You will find below useful information related to the situation which is updated regularly.

1 – Health watch

Since the end of January, we have implemented procedures in order to prevent the spread of the virus in the Thadeua and Hadxaykhao campuses.

Up till now, the school is following the recommendations given by the French Embassy and Government: <https://la.ambafrance.org/Sante-Nouveau-coronavirus-2019-nCoV>

Viruses are mostly spread through hand contact by touching one's face, mouth and eyes. It can also spread through bodily fluids, such as a runny nose or a cough. Pre-symptomatic sufferers are contagious. Getting the virus off our hands is the most important step.

Here are the steps we have implemented:

- The nurse has instructed the teachers to remind students to wash their hands frequently with soap and disinfectant gel. This should be done before each meal and as often as possible. A bottle of gel has been placed in every Primary School classroom. In the Secondary School, a bottle of gel can be found in the infirmary, the CPE office, the library, at the gym and the cafeteria.
 - The premises are being thoroughly cleaned with white vinegar. Special attention is given to door handles, banisters, taps...
 - The nurse has posted a video to the school website and Facebook page to teach students and teachers how to prevent the spread of the virus.
 - Preventive measure posters have been placed in toilets and on classroom doors.
 - Masks are available for students and staff if they feel the need.
 - Children or adults showing symptoms are placed in isolation before being sent home. In this case, a 24 hour waiting period with no fever or medicine is required before one is allowed back into the school. We may also ask for a medical certificate.
- All school trips, missions and training sessions in Asia have been cancelled.

2 – International recommendations

As indicated on 28/2/2020, Considering the evolution of the COVID-19 epidemic, the AEFÉ has updated its recommendations pertaining to the measures taken by the French Ministry of Health and Solidarity for people returning from updated exhibition areas by following the link: <https://urlz.fr/bW84>

If you have been in one of these regions during your school vacation, we would ask you to refrain from sending your children to the Hoffet School for a fortnight following your return. Also, if you have gone with your children abroad and wish to contact school personnel, we would ask you to not come to the school and communicate with them only by telephone.

The following measures have been advised by the French Ministry of Health and Solidarity:

- ✓ Take your temperature twice a day;

- ✓ Watch out for symptoms of respiratory infection, such as cough or difficulty breathing;
- ✓ Wear a surgical mask when you are speaking to other people or when you must leave the house;
- ✓ Wash your hands regularly or use gel;
- ✓ Avoid all contact with people in a fragile state, such as pregnant women, the chronically ill, the aged;
- ✓ Avoid places where those in a fragile state would congregate, such as hospitals, maternity wards and old-folk homes;
- ✓ Avoid any unnecessary outings, such as large crowds, restaurants, theatres...

The LFIV will not be taking your children's temperature due to the inefficiency of thermometers; one must wait two minutes between each verification or buy very expensive equipment. Those schools which began taking their students' temperature have stopped doing so. We do, however, advise parents to take their children's temperature every morning before taking them to school.

3 – Measures taken at the LFIV

Since March 16th, we have taken measures in relation to the sports activities at the Hadxaykhaio campus. We have had to reduce or even cancel contact sports and replace them with other activities.

We will also reinforce cleaning, and wipe down door handles, stair ramps, taps, tables, chair and others every hour. We are also taking extra care of the school buses and the school ventilation system. A total spring cleaning will take place during the Pimai break.

On top of the isolation and sending home of children, a follow-up of symptomatic children is carried out by the nurse in Pronote for Secondary School students. The same will be implemented for the Primary School (date of sending home, date of return, reason for sending home). A control has also been set up for the school staff and they will not be authorized to come to work if they are symptomatic. School personnel have been instructed as per gestures and habits to be applied on a daily basis.

New posters detailing the precautions and actions to be taken will be put up on both campuses in order to remind all concerned of these. There will also be daily updates.

Our stock of masks and sterile gel are still holding, but we advise everyone to stock up for the following weeks.

A safety distance is recommended for both teachers and students. We also recommend that you avoid shaking hands or kissing.

Due to COVID-19's global reach, we would like to remind you of the need to postpone private and professional travel and missions as much as possible.

In the absence of specific instructions given by local health officials concerning the school, we will continue as usual.

If you suspect that your child is infected and shows signs of fever, feverishness, cough, or trouble breathing there are two scenarios:

- If your child is at home, you must dial 166 (in Lao only) or 020 54 06 67 77 (Lao, English and Chinese) who will send you to a testing center. Do not go to the school or to a clinic in order to avoid contamination. Follow the instructions given to you by health services.
- If your child is at school, he or she must go to the Infirmary who will contact you to take the above measures.

4 – Continuity of Education

In function of the epidemic's evolution, the School is ready to take any necessary measures and is preparing itself for any eventuality. School Management is working closely with the French Embassy and the AEFÉ network and is both giving and receiving daily updates.

Teachers are prepared to ensure the continuity of education if the School were to close:

- Implementation of a distance learning module using such tools as Pronote, Magistere and Skype, as well as Google Meet, Classroom and Hangout and Biblio Manuals accesses. This means :
 - Following the dynamic of students' progress in relation to the program as much as possible,
 - Encouraging students' productive work so as to maintain evaluation possibilities,
 - Maintaining contact between students and teachers, and
 - Allowing students to complete their tasks for 4 to 5 hours a day.
 - Parents can also turn to the CNED – the distance learning platform of the French National Education system. This can help complete the curriculum as proposed by the School. Their classes were designed to let students work for 2 to 3 hours a day at home. The CNED's three modules are available on line at:
 - ecole.cned.fr - from the *grande section* of kindergarten to *CM2*
 - college.cned.fr - from the 6th to the 3rd Forms
 - lycee.cned.fr - from 2nd form to Terminale, sections L, ES and S.
 - You can sign up for free on line by giving your full name and creating a password.
- For students facing exams this year, the School and its Guidance Counselor will follow up each file and ensure that every student and family be helped, especially when the time comes to make a PARCOURSUP file. The AEFÉ's pedagogical service will help us and maintain contact with our national academy and the Ministry of National Education which is uniquely responsible for setting exam dates.
- The scholastic calendar is subject to change following consultation with parents and such School bodies as the School Council.

If there is a case of infection in the school, the LFIV, in cooperation with the AEFÉ will take the necessary measures.

For any doubts or questions you may have regarding your individual situation, or to declare a case of infection, please contact the school by e-mail at the following address: infirmier@lfiv.org

We will keep you up to date of any new procedures

Thank you for your cooperation.