

Update: 5 December 2021



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**

NEW CORONA MEASURES FOR SCHOOLS

Due to the climbing number of Corona infections in the Netherlands, the Dutch government already adapted the protocols for schools as communicated 25 November. During a press conference on Friday 26 November further restrictions were announced. These restrictions will come into effect as of November 29 and will remain in place until December 18. Schools remain open! Below we have outlined all restrictions applicable to schools.

1,5 METERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

All adults maintain a distance of 1,5 meters from each other. For contact between staff and students this doesn't apply. We request you to maintain 1,5 meters distance while you are bringing or picking up your child. Whenever possible children come to school by themselves, and otherwise with maximum one parent or adult. We request you to only be at the play yard as short as possible (no gatherings). Staff are requested to keep the distance of 1,5 meters between each other and not gather (e.g. in the kitchen area).

FACEMASKS GROUP 6 & 7 AND STAFF

Children in Group 6 and 7 wear a facemask in the hallways. They can be taken off once in the classroom. This is an urgent advice, we will remind children to do so, but won't act on it. We assume children bring their own facemasks, but we can also provide a facemask when a child might have forgotten to bring it with them. Also, staff wear facemasks whilst walking in the hallways or main areas. This is not necessary when they are in the classroom or at their desk.

SELF-TEST TWICE PER WEEK GROUP 6 & 7 AND STAFF

Children from Group 6 and 7 are requested to take a self-test twice a week at home (not at school), e.g., Monday morning and Thursday morning. School staff are required to do a self-test twice a week, also when they are immune. Self-tests are preventive tests, which means they should be used for testing without symptoms. Self-tests for students will be supplied by the government, however we haven't heard when. For the time being we would appreciate you taking care of that by buying them yourselves. We will inform you as soon as they are available.

ANY SYMPTOMS: STAY HOME (ALSO WITH MILD COLD SYMPTOMS)

Children from 4 - 12 years and adults with any symptoms, including a mild nose cold or runny/snotty nose, must stay at home and be tested.

- In the case of only mild cold symptoms, such as a minor cold or a cough, they can take a self-test, rather than needing to get an official PCR test immediately at the GGD. Students and staff with mild symptoms, can come to school after the self-test is negative. If the test is positive they should still make an appointment with the GGD for a PCR test and stay home in quarantine
- In the case of more serious symptoms like severe cold, fever, shortness of breath an official PCR test has been done via the GGD and they have to stay at home whilst awaiting the test.

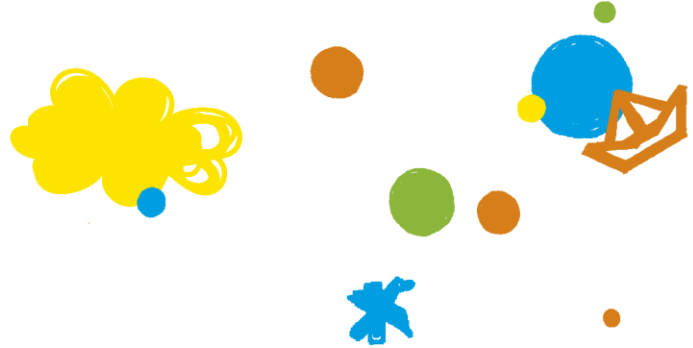
You can contact the GGD directly on 0800 1202 or make an appointment via www.coronatest.nl

TESTED POSITIVE - QUARANTINE

If any member of a household is infected with COVID-19, all other members must also go into quarantine (regardless of age, vaccination status or immunity). Also, those who have been a close contact (within 1,5 meters for 15 minutes or longer) to someone tested positive, need to go into quarantine, for example class mates. GGD will support us in those situations after which you will be informed further.

For students or staff who are in quarantine, because they have been in close contact with somebody who tested positive, are still required to get themselves tested at the GGD after 5 days. A self-test is not suitable in this instance. With a negative GGD test result they can come back to school.





CLASSES SENT HOME OR SCHOOL CLOSED

When the number of infections rises above a certain level, GGD can (urgently) advise to send home classes or close the school. Classes can also be sent home when it's not organisationally possible to find staffing. Since all with minor symptoms have to stay at home, this also applies to teaching staff. In these situations, and when staff is not sick, we will provide distance learning.

WALKING ROUTES

We will do our best – when possible – to keep classes separated and have walking routes, like we already do by using two entrances for the different Mileposts.

LIMITATIONS FOR ADULTS IN THE BUILDING

All meetings, and study days are held online. There are no trainings at school.

The number of adults in the building is restricted:

- All staff that don't need to be at school for teaching duties, work from home as much as possible, for example office staff. We make sure that every day one member of the management team is present.
- Parents are not allowed in the school building unless this is really necessary. Parent meetings are held online. An exception can be made for prospective parents or families of children who start at OIS and are new to the school. Intakes are held online, but there can be a small tour at school while the distance of 1,5 meters is maintained and all involved wear a face mask. We will not enter the classrooms.
- Trainees, and specialists (e.g., speech therapist) are allowed in the school building. They are requested to do a self-test twice a week and maintain a distance of 1,5 meters and wear a facemask when they walk through the hallways.
- After school staff wear a facemask whilst walking through the hallways and go directly to the room. If early, they wait outside. They cannot use the main areas. They are requested to do a self-test before arrival and maintain a distance of 1,5 meters. They are requested to keep children from different classes separated as much is possible.
- Ludios staff members for our lunch sport activities work outside and are allowed to come in as short as possible to have something to eat or drink in the kitchen. They wear a facemask whilst walking through the hallways and maintain a distance of 1,5 meters. They are requested to do a self-test before arrival.
- Library volunteers are allowed in the building. They wear a facemask whilst walking through the hallways, maintain a distance of 1,5 meters and go directly to the library.
- Swimming volunteers need a QR code to be allowed in the pool. They are also requested to do a self-test before arrival. They are requested to wait outside, in their car or in the hall of the main entrance when it's raining, if they are early. They wear a facemask whilst guiding the children in and outside the bus and in the swimming pool and maintain a distance of 1,5 meters with other adults (not necessary between adults and children). They are requested to keep children from different classes separated as much is possible (in the bus and in the dressing rooms).
- Volunteering gym walkers guide groups outside and can continue to do so. They are requested to wait outside, in their car or in the hall of the main entrance when it's raining, if they are early. They are requested to wear a facemask when they would go inside a building. They maintain a distance of 1,5 meters with other adults (not necessary between adults and children).

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

In class Christmas celebrations are done without (volunteering) parents. Snacks are organised by the school (and cannot be provided by families at home).

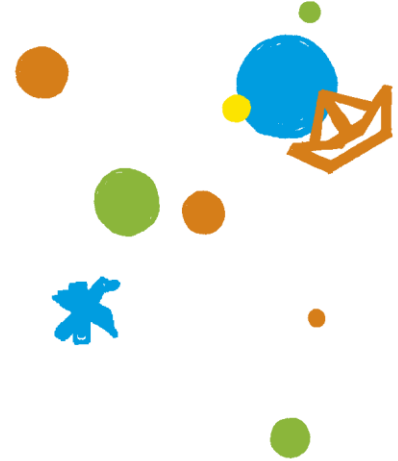
TRAVEL PLANS

If you are traveling in the next weeks, months, please pay special attention to the conditions in your destination, and rules for quarantining upon return, as they may have an impact. New travel restrictions and measures are announced continuously.

THANK YOU!

Last but not least, in the summary above we tried to summarize all measures as clear as possible. This is in strong contrast with our vision on family-school partnership and our appreciation of your involvement and volunteering in the various activities. Please be assured we appreciate that! However, these measures are important to create a safe environment and to help to reduce the number of infections. We hope this will avoid a situation that we have to send home classes or close the school, as many schools around us have to do on a daily basis. We thank you for your understanding and hope you will support us in these efforts.





If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us or call the GGD on 0800 1202.

Warm regards

OIS Management,
Colleen Cropp
Cheryl Embleton
Anne-Marie van Holst

