



18 August 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Principals Webinar Regarding the Private School Reopening Policies and Guidelines for Academic Year 2021/22

 Last year, we were able to have a physical barrier between our bubbles with 10 students per bubble, which allowed 20 students per class. This year, we are only allowed one bubble with a maximum of 16 students, which is a decrease in the number of students we can physically accommodate in school.

We firmly believe that a classroom environment without barriers and with enhanced interaction between young students and teachers is the most beneficial setting for the development and wellbeing of children during these critical early years. Hence, we encourage you to implement a single bubble of 16 in a classroom.

However, schools who wish to maintain the model from the previous academic year may continue to do so as long as they maintain the following conditions and ensure an appropriate learning environment for each student:

- Separate or staggered entry/exits for the 2 groups.
- A teaching team may be shared between the two bubbles as long as they
 maintain precautionary measures such as wearing masks and regularly
 sanitizing hands.
- A solid, non-transparent physical barrier of at least 1.2 m in height is installed between the bubbles. Students are placed at least 1 m from the barrier (so there is a space of 2 m, chair to chair, between any two students in different bubbles).
- One positive COVID-19 case in the classroom will require a shift to distance learning for both bubbles as they share a teaching team who will be considered close contacts and will need to quarantine. While the affected bubble and teaching team will need to quarantine, the unaffected bubble will only need to shift to distance learning without quarantining. If a member of the teaching team tests positive, students in both bubbles will be considered close contacts and will therefore need to quarantine.
- Remind your parents to keep their children at home should they show any

| . 00971 (0) 2 615 00 00 | IG. ADEK_INSTA | WWW.ADEK.GOV.AE | | | | | | | | + | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--------|---|--|--------|---|--|
| | | | | Т | | | | Т | | \top | Т | | \Box | П | |





symptoms and inform them of the above closure and quarantine criteria.

2. Given the date of the vaccination requirement announcement for individuals above 16 years of age, many students and staff would not be able to complete the vaccination journey prior to 29 August due to challenges in accessing vaccinations while on vacation abroad or an inability to secure appointments etc. Can they have a grace period?

We have worked on 2 solutions to accommodate for this challenge:

- We have set up dedicated walk-in vaccination centers for students 12+ and educators (all school staff except third party contractors) in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, which will cater to our school community from 17 August until 31 October. This will allow 10 weeks for all those who need to be vaccinated or receive a booster dose to do so in time to physically attend schools. For further information, click here.
- We have made allowances for students 16+ and staff to physically access schools as detailed in circular PE/K12E2020/027. In summary, all eligible staff should have received their first dose before August 20 and all eligible students should have received their first dose by their first day of physically returning to school. It is the responsibility of schools to ensure the timely completion of their staff and students' vaccination journeys.
- 3. We expect many staff members will not be able to join the school on 29 August 2021 due to the new vaccination requirements. Hence, we would like to request delaying the physical return of students by at least 2 weeks and have online classes during this time.
 - Schools must open physically as per their approved calendar. This year, schools are not authorized to shift to distance learning for any reason without prior ADEK authorization. Additionally, please see the response to Question 2.
- 4. Can teachers teach classes from countries outside the UAE if they are allowed to do so by their school?
 - We strongly encourage the physical return of the whole school community, where possible. If a school allows, an already employed teacher may be based temporarily outside the UAE if teaching distance learning classes only. However, they are not authorized to teach face-to-face classes.





5. Can Students attend the classes outside the country if they have opted for distance learning?

Students already enrolled in Abu Dhabi private schools who have opted for distance learning may attend classes from any location. However, it is recommended that students be based in time zones that allow access to live sessions at appropriate local times.

6. Are teachers from different macrobubbles allowed to come together for training as long as social distancing requirements are maintained?

Please arrange in-person training sessions according to macrobubbles (i.e. 3 different sessions for 3 separate macrobubbles). However, you are welcome to hold online training sessions to accommodate staff from different macrobubbles.