



American Overseas School of Rome

Continuity of Learning Plan



Decision Making Process

The Head of School, in consultation with the AOSR Board of Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team, decides upon how the school operates in all circumstances, including in the exceptional circumstances caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic. However, neither the HoS nor the BoT is free to make all decisions independently. Because public safety and the safety of our students and teachers is at stake, we are required to comply with regulations issued by government agencies, including the Italian Ministry of Health and Ministry of Instruction, and the US Department of Overseas Schools. In the face of the current public health crisis, these organisations are issuing many regulations which affect the operation of AOSR. In most cases, AOSR is legally required to comply with directives of these agencies.

Continuity of Learning Plan

This document is laid out in the simplest form possible, with the given knowledge available at the time of publication. This document is easily editable to ensure the most current information and any updates will be shared with the AOSR community.

This Plan is guided by the following principles:

1. The health, wellbeing, and safety of students, teachers, staff, and visitors to AOSR is our first priority.
2. On-campus learning provides the most effective environment for learning, and when possible, is the preferred modality.
3. Ensure hygiene- and health-related policies and practices are research-based, clearly communicated, effectively implemented, and diligently enforced.
4. Student learning is critical, particularly learning of key skills and understandings necessary for successful completion of academic programs.
5. Offer the best learning opportunity possible in all modalities, be responsive and agile during changing health circumstances.
6. AOSR is committed to fulfilling its Mission to all students, under all circumstances.

Onsite Instruction – Hybrid Instruction – Distance Learning

As we begin the 2020/21 school year, three different modes of instruction are possible, depending upon the further development of the pandemic:

1. **Onsite Instruction:** Onsite Instruction means that all students will be taught by their teachers on campus on every school day. This modality is our first choice and will be the mode of instruction when possible. Onsite Instruction optimizes the possibilities for teaching, learning, and socialization, and it provides parents with caring and secure supervision for their children.
2. **Hybrid Instruction:** This model recognizes that Distance Learning does not provide the social interaction most students desire; therefore, a hybrid model provides in-person learning for a portion of instructional time while leveraging digital experiences the remaining portion. In order to comply with government decrees, AOSR will group students for optimal learning. If this is the case, we will augment In-Person Instruction with digital support for the students working from home. We will introduce Google Meets distance instruction, meaning that the classroom teacher will enable students at home to view lessons being taught in the classroom through videoconferencing.
3. **Distance Learning:** In case infections are detected within our school community, we will move students to Distance Learning. Student-teacher interactions will be established as quickly as possible, schedules for learning will be set, and we will communicate the framework to the affected students and families. Our aim is to support student learning to keep close pace with the expectations of Onsite Instruction and/or Hybrid Instruction. According to the current information from the health department, they will ask that we require close contacts of positive cases at home, rather than close the entire school.



Public/Community Health Risk Continuum Decision Making Matrix

Code	Viral Status	PreK-Elementary	Middle and High School
Green	Vaccine available	Fully open for students; Continuation of cleaning measures, personal protection requirement and campus restriction cease	Fully open for students Continuation of cleaning measures, personal protection requirement and campus restriction cease
Yellow	Low risk Government expects students in class.	Fully open for students; Safety measures in place	Fully open for students; safety measures in place
Orange	Medium risk Incidences in the region dramatically increase, community members COVID positive	Potential blended learning environment; lower grades in a 3 or 4 day per week cycle.	Blended learning with students in Blue/Red cohorts.
Red	Outbreak of virus in the region. Stay-at-home order from the Italian Authorities	Campus closed; Virtual Learning is implemented.	Campus is closed Virtual Learning is implemented.

While we can decrease the likelihood of spreading infection on campus, we cannot eliminate it. Despite our best efforts there will continue to be a risk of infection on our campus. Any institution that brings together several hundred people, especially with international backgrounds and greater mobility, will naturally be a potential point for the spread of infection. We must be prepared that individual students, teachers, staff members, or visitors may become infected with the novel coronavirus. We must be prepared to pivot quickly between different modes of instruction. We must be prepared that any plans we make today may have to be suddenly changed tomorrow. We must remain flexible, ready to deal with uncertainty, and cohesive as a community.

References and Resources:

Arlington County Public Schools

<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/continuityoflearning>

CDC Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings in Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>

Virginia Department of Education

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/c4l/virginia-learns-anywhere.pdf>

Michigan Department of Education

<https://michiganvirtual.org/research/publications/learning-continuity-planning-considerations-for-school-leaders/>