



## FIA, Frequently Asked Questions about Returning to Campus

Fall 2020 (updated August 29)

As many of you have seen, our simple ten slides in PDF document on our website, ***Return to Campus Protocols***, summarize the many aspects of learning, communicating, taking proper precautions and working together that the COVID pandemic has created the need for if anyone is to be back in a school setting, on a campus. FIA is no exception and we will address in this document the Frequently Asked Questions related to coming back together on campus. Many of these questions and answers are geared for on-campus queries, but that does not imply we are going to be on campus, but that we are preparing in these ways for the date when school on campus is allowed to continue.

Our summer ***Camp FIA!*** for two weeks in July was a prime rehearsal for the fall return to campus. It has helped us learn and practice empirically many of these important measures. When we meet with you all in the required orientation Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, we will review these points and field any further questions you might have! **Please note that the first quarter calendar has been modified.**

With thanks and warm wishes for family health, The FIA Team

### ❖ Will all children and staff come back to school on campus?

Yes, as of today, August 29<sup>th</sup>, we can no longer plan for classes to start on campus for the first month of school. We understand from the August 21<sup>st</sup> announcement made by Minister of Education Youth and Information, the Honorable Karl Samuda, that there will be a delay until October for opening schools. FIA will respect all government mandates and comply with all necessary health regulations.

That means that we cannot use the campus until October 5<sup>th</sup>, so we will start classes online Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, leaving time next week to get, share and distribute art supplies, texts, and so on. When allowed, both staff and students are expected to come to classes on campus if they are healthy and understand that they will be subject to the health regulations currently in effect throughout Montego Bay and Jamaica. Those who cannot because they do not meet the health requirements will not be penalized for non-attendance at this time. Everyone's health and safety come first in these decisions.

As stated in Mr. Morse's August Welcome letter, "Preserving flexibility to adjust to any changes in pandemic conditions as health and safety requirements allow or demand." is one of our guiding considerations for the safety and health of our community. We will remain **flexible** to conduct classes online or on campus, as circumstances dictate.

We will continue to prepare and train our community for the demands of the year, starting with the required orientation for families Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> on campus, cautiously for the day.



❖ **I am worried that my children are vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them to school, once it has been cleared that classes can happen on campus?**

Students and staff who have chronic illnesses, including but not limited to asthma, sickle cell disease, lupus or other collagen vascular diseases, cancer, hypertension, and diabetes should discuss with their health care provider before returning to campus. People living in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and they are able to understand the importance of following these instructions.

Other symptoms that can keep a student or staff member at home are:

- ✓ Fever (above 37.4°C = 99.3°F)
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Difficulty breathing
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Chest pain
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea
- ✓ Abdominal pain

❖ **Given the mask requirement and its discomfort, will the school schedule be altered?**

At this point, there is no provision to change the school class schedule because of masks.

❖ **Who are required to wear masks at school?**

Everyone – students, visitors and staff - must wear masks while at school. Masks must cover the nose and mouth, including a proper seal and filter, not just a cloth or loose-fitting wrap. Everyone is reminded NOT TO fidget with their masks, as they collect bacteria as they protect you; touching them increases the chance for spreading the germs to the mouth, eyes and ears.

❖ **Will these conditions affect the number of students in each class?**

Yes, we have measured the square feet in each class and eliminated the use of small classes, retaining the use of the largest class rooms, which allow for up to 9 or 10 students, while respecting the physical distancing of 3-6'. If the regulated distance requirements increase, we will adjust class room environments appropriately to ensure safety and compliance.

❖ **What do I do if my child is feeling anxious about going back to campus?**

No doubt there have been odd circumstances at home, in your neighborhood, in your movement around Montego Bay or in your family travel, and your family has adjusted. The current circumstances



continue to be odd but we will continue to respond, as needed, to health and safety requirements. The more we do together as a community, the less “odd” the experience will seem and be!

❖ **What about students or staff with recent travel history?**

Regardless of the country of travel, if a student or staff member has travelled out of Jamaica **cannot** attend school for a period of **no less than 14 days** after returning to Jamaica. If this applies to you and you are quarantined for a period that is scheduled for classes, please inform the School Secretary of the term and your health.

❖ **Will students/staff members be asked to quarantine when a member of the same household travels?**

Yes, any member of the household that has travelled must quarantine for 14 days after returning to Jamaica as stipulated by the Government of Jamaica. If the person is not able to fully isolate within their household, the s/he **MUST NOT** be on campus for a period of **no less than 14 days**. If this applies to you, please inform the School Secretary of the term of your absence.

❖ **Will students be confined to the same classroom for the entire day?**

Not entirely. We intend to limit the movement from class to class and have, instead, the teacher come to the class. Jamaica, and certainly FIA, benefits from excellent weather and the possibility of outdoor learning, where transmission of the coronavirus is reduced significantly.

❖ **Will there be special arrangements for snack time, water breaks and lunch times?**

Yes. Students are expected to bring their own snacks and lunches – not to be shared or heated – and water access at the large water dispenser will be managed by adults.

❖ **Will students be able to participate in PE or physical activities after school?**

There will be no team sport activities for September. PE will be with only one small group at a time. PE instruction will ensure that students adhere to social distancing during PE classes. As of now, extra-curricular activities will not start in September if they have heavy physical interactions but some will be allowed if they do not have a strong physical component. More details will be provided in Morning Meeting as the year begins.

❖ **Will there be changes for drop-off and pick-up?**

Yes. While under COVID health regulations, we will recognize parents, visitors and vendors as “visitors,” who are not to come into the building or out of their cars unless transacting a service that



requires it. Staff will be present at pickup and drop-off to administer temperature-taking and careful hand-offs. There will not be special arrival times.

❖ **What school assemblies will be dedicated to these conditions and their effects?**

As practiced last year, we will continue with school assemblies in the mornings or, if special circumstances, at any time of the day needed to interrupt regular classes. Every morning will have a *Morning Meeting* of 20 minutes for a variety of curricular topics, according to a curriculum, including grade and all-school formats. Visits from health care providers will be part of those discussions, based on the issues and availability of caregivers.

❖ **If a student has symptoms and is sent home, does s/he have to take a COVID test? If positive, will the entire class have to go in quarantine?**

Any student or staff with any flu-like symptoms or contact with a known COVID positive patient **MUST** inform the School Secretary and stay home until cleared for re-entry by a healthcare provider. If the contagion warrants it, the entire class might have to go into quarantine until we are advised by health officials that it is safe for them to return.

❖ **What if a student or staff member becomes sick at school with COVID related symptoms?**

If a student or staff member becomes sick at school, they will be isolated immediately and sent home for further assessment. Parents will be informed as soon as possible to pick up their child(ren) immediately. Similarly, staff must leave the premises immediately. Infected individuals will only be allowed to return to school with a medical clearance note from their healthcare provider

❖ **What is the sanitization protocol for the school?**

All shared spaces will be sanitized at least twice per day. Bathrooms will continue to be sanitized throughout the day. Students and staff are expected to carry and use their own personal hand sanitizer and wipes throughout the day, keeping their own possessions and area around them clean.

❖ **Will all students, staff and visitors be required to sanitize before entering the school?**

Yes, **everyone** will be required to have temperature checks and sanitize their hands before entering the campus and buildings. There will be temperature checks, hand washing and sanitizing stations near entrances and around the campus.

❖ **Will there be a forum where parents will be able to meet with the school staff before and after the start of school to discuss the reopening plans and ongoing concerns?**



At this time, the school's plans will be shared and parents/ guardians at the required *Family Orientation* on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. We will certainly dedicate time to these topics at the *Back-to-School Night*, Thursday, October<sup>th</sup>, for all grades.

We hope these simple, popular questions and answers help inform you about the critical transition topics for all of us as we return to being together physically as a community. We appreciate your collaboration, support and compliance as we all embrace the need to mitigate and eradicate the spread of the coronavirus in our community and everywhere we go!

Further questions? Please contact Ms. Mowatt at [FIA@FairfieldAcademyJA.com](mailto:FIA@FairfieldAcademyJA.com)

We also encourage you to download [Return-to-School Protocols](#) on our website (click title to open the link) for a further, simple and graphic display of this same information and more clinical background.

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