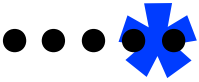


PARENTS GUIDE TO SCHOOLS REOPENING



SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION!

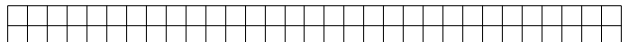
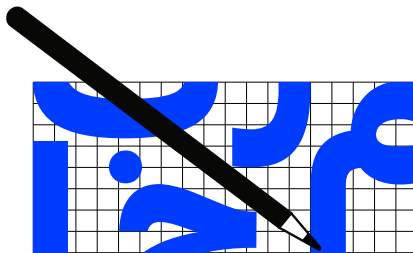
Dear Parents,

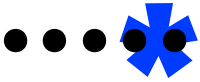
We have just completed one of the most challenging academic years in our history as a nation, and your unparalleled commitment and cooperation was instrumental in ensuring that our schools delivered quality learning to our children.

Over the summer, ADEK has worked extensively with schools, parent representatives, teachers and federal policymakers to develop guidelines to ensure a safe return to school for our children. These guidelines reflect scientific evidence and international best practices, but more importantly, they are informed by hours of discussions with school leaders, teachers and thousands of responses by parents to surveys conducted by ADEK. With these guidelines in place, we are confident that schools will be able to welcome students back for the Academic Year 2020/21.

This guide provides you with essential information to prepare you and your child for their return to school. If you have specific questions or comments, please direct them to your School Principal.

Once again, Welcome Back!



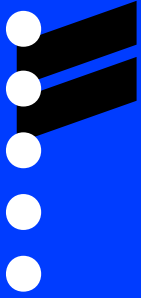


We understand that starting the new school year might make your children feel nervous or reluctant to return to school.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN DURING THIS PHASE:

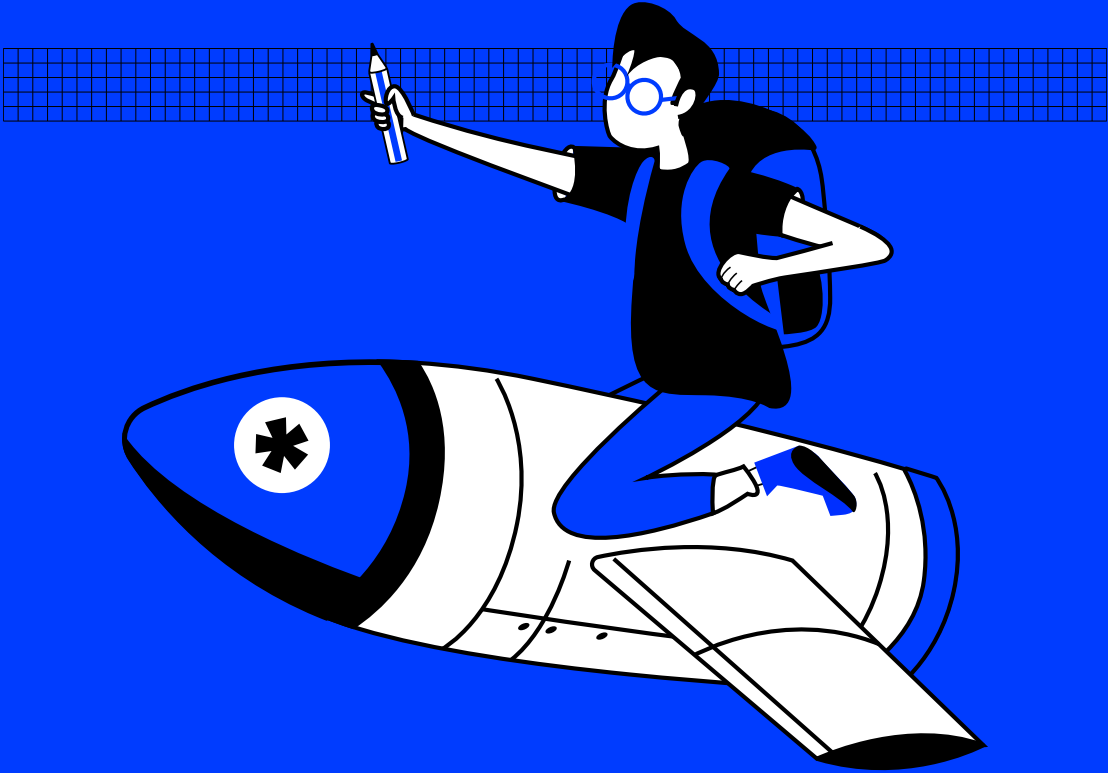
- ⦿ Speak to your children about COVID-19 and let them know that it's natural to feel anxious or nervous about returning back to school.
- ⦿ Have an open conversation about their anxieties and fears about returning to school and reassure them about safety measures and precautions the schools will have in place to keep everyone healthy.
- ⦿ Be honest about the changes that they will see at school, such as the need to wear masks, inability to be close to their friends and teachers.
- ⦿ Explain to your children that they will play an important role in keeping themselves and their community healthy by wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, and sanitizing hands.
- ⦿ Highlight the positive aspects of returning to school such as being able to meet their friends and learning new things.
- ⦿ Continuously check in with your children to evaluate their well-being when school begins.





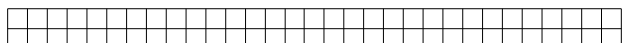
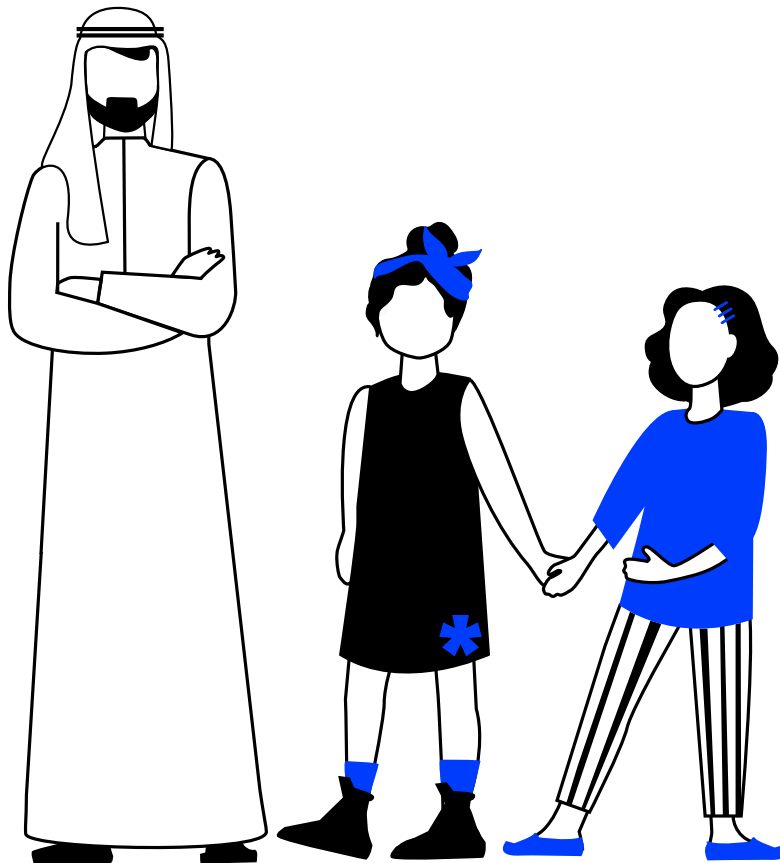
BACK-TO-SCHOOL PREP

What Do You Need to Know?



| TUITION FEES

- Full tuition fee will apply to students, regardless of the mode of attendance and reopening model followed by the school.
- Schools will not be able to reduce bus fees despite the possible reduction in the number of days attended physically in school due to the capacity utilization reduction of buses (50% of capacity).
- If you are facing financial constraints, reach out to your school's Principal for support.
- If you choose not to enroll your child in a school, and instead homeschool him/her, you take the risk that your child will need to repeat the grade once he is back in the system.



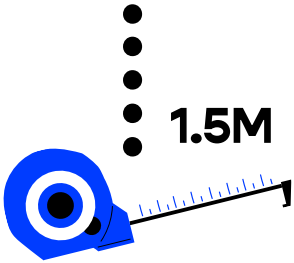


SAFETY FIRST

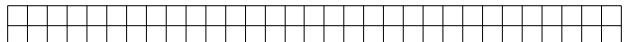
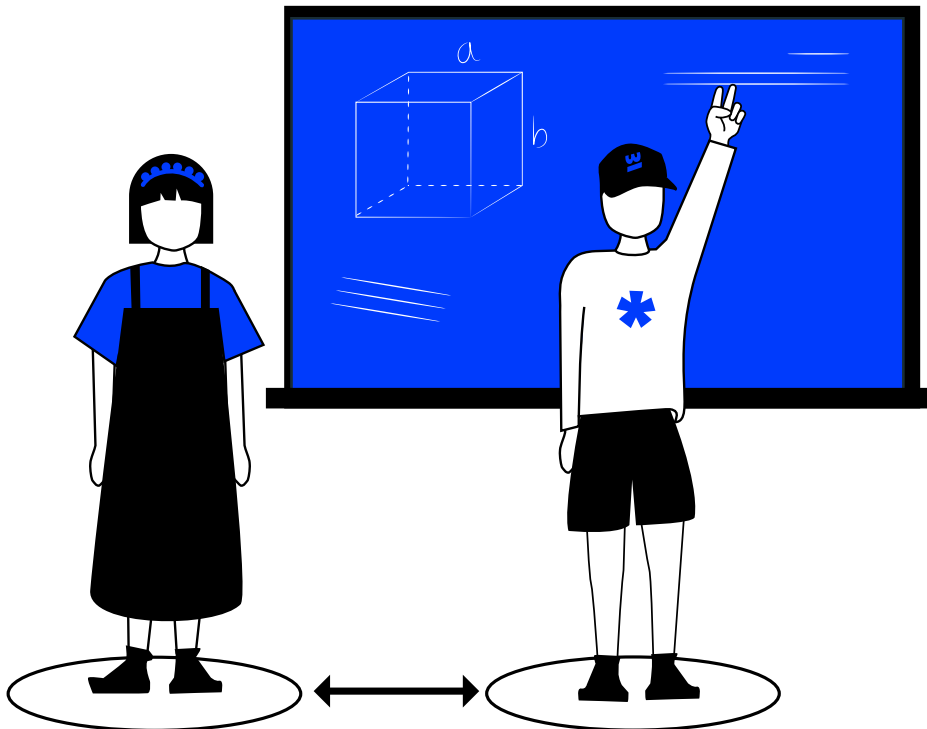
What Do You Need to Know?



| SOCIAL DISTANCING



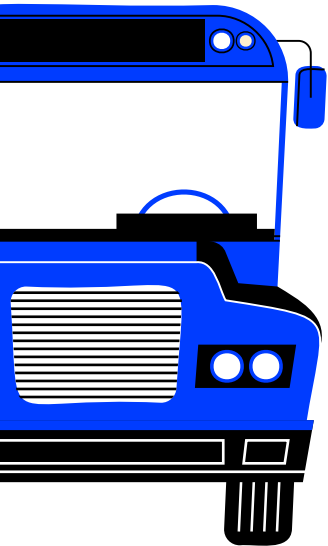
- Students will be expected to stay 1.5m apart at all times.
- Younger children who find it difficult to maintain social distancing in KG and early primary grades may be grouped into “bubbles of up to 10 **students**”.
- A bubble is a group of students and staff member who spend the entire day together and do not interact with other students and staff.



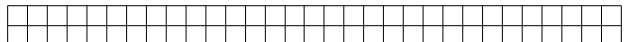
| ENTERING AND EXITING THE SCHOOL

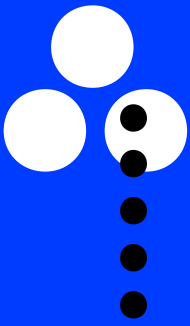
- Parents will **not** be allowed **inside** the school premises, unless they are supporting a Student of Determination. Exceptions can be made to allow one parent to accompany a KG or early Cycle 1 student, if needed. **However, the parent will need to have a negative COVID-19 test result with 72 hours validity. This is subject to change as the situation develops. Please keep in touch with your school for further updates**
- Only **one** parent/guardian can accompany children outside the entrance to the school.
- If you accompany your child as they stand in the queue, you **must** wear a mask.
- Non-contact temperature screening will take place **when** entering the school.
- Students will queue outside the gate to enter, maintaining a 1.5m distance from other families/students.
- Your school may stagger entry and exit times for students to avoid large queues and crowding. These times will be communicated to you by your school.
- **Only one parent will be allowed to pick up their child in** the designated waiting area. During this period, you will be required to maintain a 1.5m distance from other people.

| TRANSPORT SAFETY MEASURES



- Buses will operate at **50% of their capacity**, and children will be required to maintain a distance while on the bus.
- Children will be assigned seats on the bus for the entire semester.
- Temperature checks will happen before boarding the bus, and children with elevated body temperature will not be allowed on the bus.
- We encourage you to transport your children to and from school in order to ease the pressure on the school transport system.





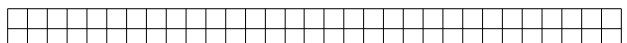
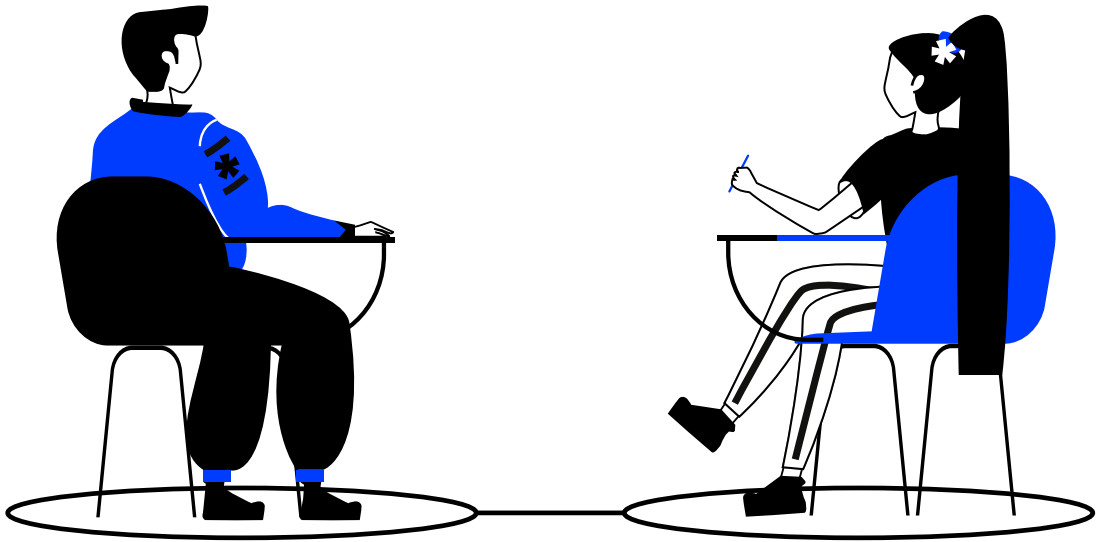
SCHOOL IS IN

What Do You Need to Know?



| CLASS SIZES AND GROUPING

- It is likely that your child’s class will be split into two or more groups to accommodate for social distancing requirements.
- Schools will have a maximum of 15 students per classroom.
- To minimize exposure to others, your child will remain in this group until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- If your child uses the school bus, they will also be part of a fixed “bus group” so that their exposure to other children is minimized.



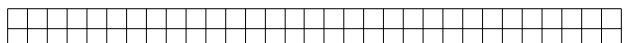
| IF YOUR CHILD BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL



- They will immediately be moved to the Quarantine Room, where they will be monitored by a School Nurse.
- You will be contacted immediately to retrieve your child from the school.
- The school shall not administer any medicines to your child.
- The school will inform you about the nearest hospital and COVID-19 testing center.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, you are mandated to inform the school so that they can take measures to secure the health of other students and staff who may have been exposed to the virus.
- Information about your child will **not be shared** with anyone other than the relevant government authorities.

| OPTIMIZING SCHOOL FACILITIES AND SUPPLIES

- Some schools may convert non-teaching areas such as gymnasiums and libraries into classrooms. **These areas will be separated by a physical barrier and a separate entry/exit point allowing for a maximum of 15 students in each area.**
- Classrooms will be configured to maintain a 1.5m distance between children, and children will be assigned fixed seats for the semester.
- Non-essential furniture will be stowed away.
- The school will minimize sharing of items such as toys and educational equipment.

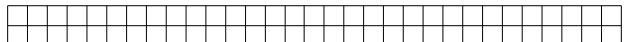
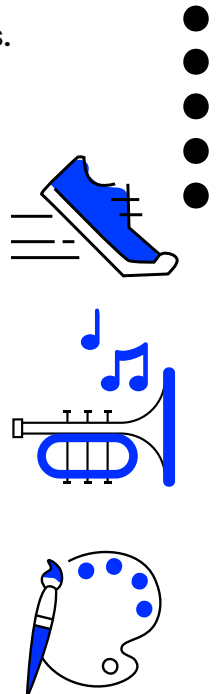


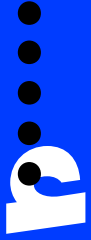
| RECREATION, LUNCH & BREAK TIMES

- Students will receive regular breaks during the day. However, these breaks will likely be very different from what they experienced in pre-COVID-19 times: students will have to maintain a 1.5m distance between themselves and their friends.
- For the initial period after reopening, playground equipment like swings and slides will be off-limits to reduce chances of cross-contamination.
- Schools will not be allowed to cook on the premises; they may provide pre-packaged food. We strongly encourage you to provide your child with a packed lunch.
- Children will be allowed to take off their masks to have lunch under supervision.

| SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Physical education at school is suspended until further notice. Virtual activities may be provided.
- Your school may also reduce the number of cultural activities that they offer, such as music, art and performing arts classes.

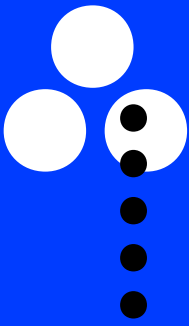




MAINTAINING QUALITY OF LEARNING:

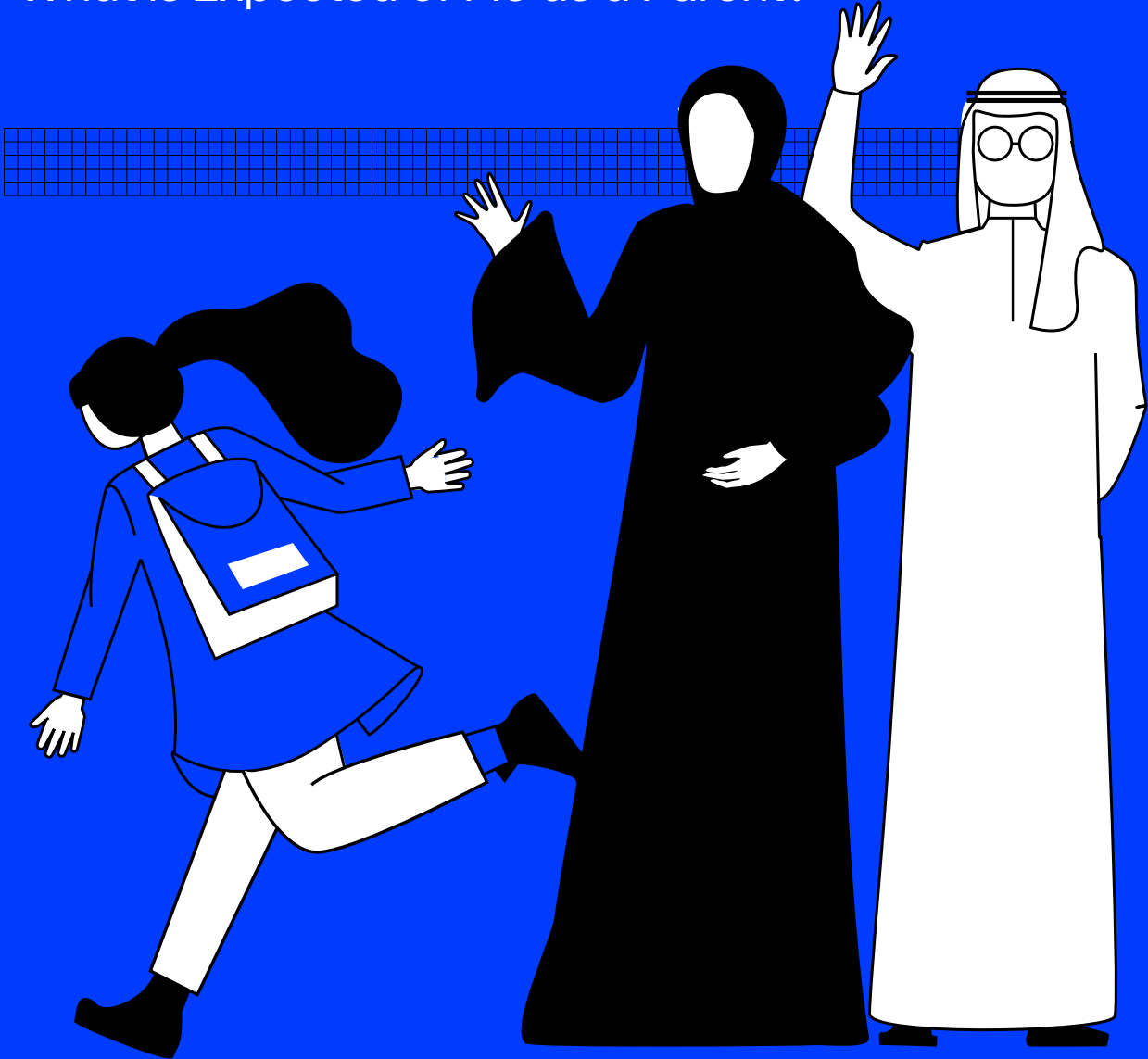
What Do You Need to Know?





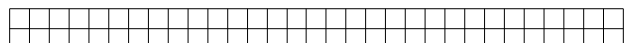
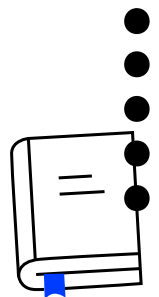
BACK TO SCHOOL

What is Expected of Me as a Parent?



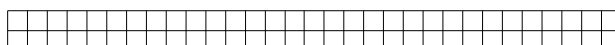
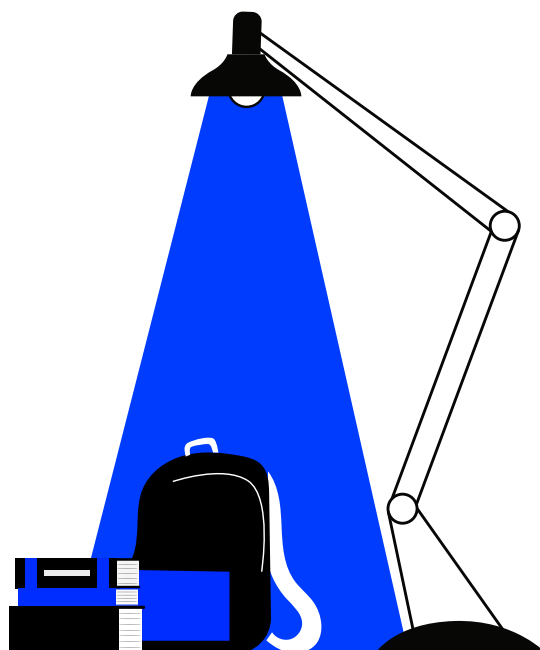
| BEFORE THE SEMESTER BEGINS

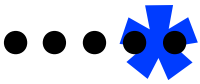
- If you're not in the UAE, plan to return at least 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the new academic year to meet any requirements of quarantine/COVID-19 testing enforced by the UAE Government.
- Re-register your child for the new academic year.
- Review the model that your child's school is adopting, along with any specific guidelines related to:
 - The days/weeks your child is supposed to attend school (if applicable)
 - Requirements/modes for distance learning
 - Timings for pick-up and drop-off (private transportation and school buses)
 - Any additional guidelines that your school has provided
- Respond to your school's requests related to:
 - Updated contact information
 - Updated medical records
 - Special arrangements for your child as required
- Inform the Principal if your child has undergone bereavement or loss due to the pandemic.
- Arrange for your child to undergo a COVID-19 PCR test prior to the start of the new academic year and share the report with their school. **This only applies to students who are aged 12 and above.**
- **While we encourage the use of the ALHOSN app, this is not mandatory.**
- **Sign the declaration form provided by your school which ensures that you commit to not sending your child to school if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms.**



| DAILY ACTIONS DURING THE SEMESTER

- ① Ensure your child does not have a fever or any symptoms such as cough, breathing difficulty or body aches.
- ① If your child has a personal device, we recommend downloading the ALHOSN app.
- ① If your child is older than 6 years, ensure he has at least two masks (if disposable) to wear at school during the day.
- ① Wear a mask when dropping off your child to school.
- ① Stay 2m away from other families and individuals during drop-off and pick-up.
- ① If your child can manage, provide them with 70-80% alcohol-based sanitizer to carry in their pocket.

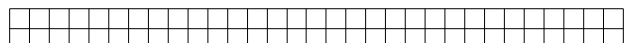
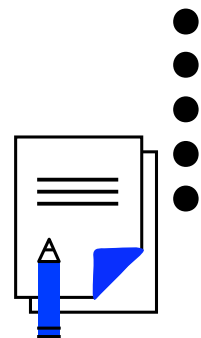


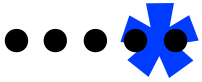


ONGOING ACTIONS TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITY:

As we work with schools across Abu Dhabi to create the safest possible environment for our children to return to school, we will also rely on your vigilance to ensure that the risk of COVID-19 transmission is minimized outside of school. To this end, you can support by:

- 1 Ensuring that you limit your and your child's potential exposure to COVID-19. This means staying away from crowded areas and avoiding large gatherings.
- 2 When you leave your home, ensure that you and your family members wear a mask and maintain social distancing as directed by UAE's public health authorities.
- 3 If your child is participating in extra-curricular activities or play dates, please ensure that they follow hygiene and social-distancing measures diligently.
- 4 If your child experiences COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, fever or breathlessness, do not send them to school, and seek immediate medical care.
- 5 Teach your child the following prevention techniques to safeguard themselves and others:
 - Keeping a safe distance of 1.5m from others.
 - Covering their mouth and nose with a tissue/paper towel when they cough or sneeze and throwing used tissues in the trash immediately.
 - Coughing or sneezing into their elbow if they don't have a tissue.
 - Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds multiple times during the day.
 - Remembering to wear a mask when stepping outside the house.





VOICING YOUR CONCERNS



We trust that the information we have provided you in this guide supports your understanding on how we collectively plan to prepare for school reopening.

If you have any concerns about your school's compliance with the school reopening guidelines, or if you are dissatisfied with the health and safety arrangements at your child's school, reach out to us on ADEK's compliance hotline: [800-ADEK](tel:800-ADEK) / [800-2335](tel:800-2335)

To keep up to date with any changes in these policies, we encourage you to view the latest version on the ADEK website: <https://www.adek.gov.ae/en/Education-System/Coronavirus-COVID19>

ADEK reserves the right to update the information in this guide at any time based on the latest information issued by federal and local authorities.

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For the latest official COVID-19 information and developments in the UAE, please visit the following websites:



UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention & Health Authorities (MOHAP):

<https://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/AwarenessCenter/Pages/COVID19-Information-Center.aspx>



Abu Dhabi Department of Health: <https://doh.gov.ae/covid-19>

