

Question	Answer
What made your department of health know it was the right time to begin?	Data across the border in Italy, # of children with cases. Sharing of data. First came out felt like best guess. Also the numbers seen in by Switzerland - hospitals were coping and number of children limited.
When opening the compulsory schools into groups with only 2 days and opening primary schools then, how did that affect parents with children in both schools and the parents need to return to work and have child care coverage?	Has been difficult on parents and some challenge from parents. Priority was safety and the school felt this was the best approach. Many people appreciative of the thoughtful approach. I would say we have had less than 10 families challenge us, though quiet strongly on how the school opened..
Were there any data points that you all used between May 11 and May 25 that prompted the full opening of school, or was that the plan from the beginning of the process?	As a school we felt that in order to open safely the best way was the half class size. This helped students, but mainly teachers in how they were able to adjust to the situation. Number of students that came back-80% came back. Pushed by local govt to open fully. No specific numbers. Today on 28th we have 90% attendance.
Did the younger grades have to maintain 2 m distance?	NO social distance not a concern for children 6 and under; over 6 up to 14 years old 2meter
Are you seeing the post-inflammatory condition in children that the US and some other countries are seeing? Have there been any cases of multi-system failure of children related to COVID-19?	Two cases in Geneva, only two Cynthia has read about. No deaths in children in Switzerland.
I am wondering how you feed children. Do they bring their own food? Do they eat in classrooms?	Eat in classroom, 50% home food and 50% school bagged lunch. Food allergies-reminder sent to families if they needed to not send certain products.
Is there concern that children could bring covid home to parents, rather than the other way around?	Children picking up COVID tend to pick up from adults outside of school. Colleague had a student who was asymptomatic and hospitalized for an injury-had + COVID test. Importance of keeping students in groups in school
Do you have children with medical conditions that make them high risk In your schools?	Some with medical conditions, under Swiss guidelines something like Diabetes not classed as high risk. Chemo-advice from provider. Home learning if any reason to not return to school. However, swiss goverment expects in public schools all students to return.

VSSNA Town Hall #9 Q&A

Question	Answer
What did you do with your staff? Many concerns have been not for the kids but the exposure to adults?	Concern from teachers is that parent needs to understand they can't always social distance from younger students. High risk staff eg over 65 to stay at home and school fully supports this. Staff must follow same rules as students and those with sick follow same rules. Morbid obesity makes someone high risk.
I would be curious about students with special health needs, how have you dealt with that? Students with compromised respiratory systems in particular	Swiss have said those students that were in school before the lock down should return to school. Including asthma, diabetes, chemo patients. if parents have concerns we direct them to have a conversation with their doctor and in our school they have the choice at this time to continue with online learning if they want to. I suspect that on our return this will not be an option unless the whole school goes into lockdown again.
Are the Swiss wearing face coverings? Do children and staff wear them?	If they want masks they can wear masks. There is no obligation in Switzerland to wear a mask. Students can wear masks - families who come from Asia tend to be the students wearing them. Because they are not requiring all students to wear masks, they cannot monitor which students are and are not wearing masks. Cleaners are required to wear masks. In nurse's office she only has disposable surgical masks. Made parents aware and let students know nurses would put mask on them if they were ill.
Does Switzerland look to the CDC for any guidance?	Switzerland is member of European Union follow WHO, however I as a school nurse look to CDC to inform us. So for example the cleaning with soap and water in the classroom came initially from CDC and was then reiterated via swiss health department.
Is there concern for mutation of the virus? Might the virus in Switzerland have different effects than the virus in USA?	Not something that has crossed their minds. However my understanding is that there is evidence of a mutation, but no impact on how the virus is behaving at this time.
Are teachers with the younger children wearing masks?	Only for reasons of protecting those at home.
What about special in-school instruction that not all children participate in? Like Band/orchestra, etc?	No after school activities to avoid crossing groups, no music, sports and after school clubs.
How do you facilitate no parents of youngest students, especially new young students, kindergarten? How does that look-parents and young students separating?	Younger students, parent can park car and drop student off with teachers who walks them into the school. Staff state this is actually working better than having parents linger in classrooms

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How have parents reacted with not being allowed in the school building?	Parents forget the guidelines and need reminders
What if parents don't come at their scheduled drop off time?	They will need to be spoken to. Need reminders.
How are special needs children being instructed?	As a private school we have limited special needs students. However, in our experience the students have coped well and here is no big consequence if students do not follow guidance. The swiss authorities states that with children with special needs there should be no negative impact on the child and that in this situation therapy / care should be given as normal.
Are temperature screenings done on students or staff?	No we are not doing this. a study in Singapore showed that during SARS they screened over 500,000 children each day and not a single case of SARS was picked up demonstrating the ineffectiveness of this type of screening. However, we do recognise that temp screening helps parents feel safe and maybe send their children to school. There is one or 2 international school in Switzerland that I am aware of doing this. However, I would warn that if you start this then you must set a criteria of when you would stop (eg no cases within school) otherwise you will have to continue for 1-2 years at my best guess.
How have you handled food allergies while eating in the classrooms?	Reminder was sent home to parents to not send in specific food items for packed lunches.
Are children playing on playground equipment?	YEs and we are not cleaning that. What we are doing is that in the zones set up there is different PE equipment and that is cleaned at the end of the day with soap and water by teachers.No PE lessons at the moment. PE teachers are outside with children and equipment cleaned with soap and water

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<p>How are you accommodating a child who falls ill during the school day? Are they being held in the nurse's office until they are picked up? How have you adapted your office for this?</p>	<p>Depending on the day (if we have 1 or 2 nurses in the office). If 2 nurses then one of us will take the sick child into the isolation room. We wear a mask and depending on the age / child we would ask them to wear a mask too. If I am here by myself I would keep them in my office, again I would wear a mask, have the room well ventilated during their stay. Parents are not allowed on campus, so they call me when they arrive at a certain point and I will take the child out to meet them. Our office is big enough to have a sick child and other students come in for care and we can easily maintain 2 m distance.</p>
<p>What changes did you have to make in your health office? Do you have an isolation room?</p>	<p>Has isolation room. Child with fever-child was in isolation room today, Age 2 so no mask. Nurse colleague (with surgical mask on) stayed with child until picked up. Can't leave child unattended-if only one nurse may need to halt additional visits from students until ill student goes home. Teachers calling down ahead before they send students to nurse is key element.</p>
<p>Do children have their own school supplies and where are they keeping them? Any backpacks allowed?</p>	<p>We are limiting the items that come from home - no toys etc. When we had half size classes we set up group a and group b equipment / books in order to prevent sharing across the groups. However now the full classes are back each child has their own equipment. The backpack are kept on pegs outside the classroom for the younger students. The older students who use lockers keep their backpacks with them. We have stopped the use of lockers as this will encourage the mixing of classes at this time. Students need to bring all their items for the day and not leave items in school.</p>
<p>taps and sinks outside, what is your plan for winter?</p>	<p>The sinks outside were ordered and put up within a week so a different solution will be needed for the long term. I have seen this time as an opportunity to improve the schools facilities and this will come up for discussion as we look to plan for the next school year.</p>
<p>Have you noticed any skin integrity issues with the handwashing/sanitizing</p>	<p>No, however I did ask parents at our town hall meeting to supply their children with hand cream as this maybe an issues. I did read an article that questions of skin changes to the hands may also be a sign of mild inflammatory response to the virus in children. I have not seen any yet.</p>

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Do children use 'group" bathrooms?	Ideally we would limit groups to certain toilets, however we do not have enough to do this for each class. So we have made them for each grade of students. We have given classroom teachers a time to encourage their students to go to the bathroom in order to try and limit the mixing of classes, but of course students can go to the bathroom as needed.
Have you mandated wearing of masks?	No obligation in Switzerland to wear a mask and we have not mandated it in our school. There are some schools in Switzerland (private) that have mandated them.
where did you get the surgical masks from?	We were given approx 5000 from our local authority, however we were able to buy approx 6000 through usual suppliers before we opened up. Swiss authorities started manufacturiing them in switzerland and were able to state that they were going to make available 1 million masks a day for the public about 2 weeks before we reopened. Since this time there has been no shortage of masks.
Is there any health screening prior to arrival at school or before riding the bus?	No we do not do a health screening before going into school. The only screening we do is for children who are returning after being off school due to illness. They are required to come back via the nurses office for a temp check and we question the child to find out if they have been feeling well for the past 48 hours and if they have taken any medication. I think this process helps ensure parents do not send the chidlren back too soon. Word gets out quickly that the nurse will send the child home if they do not meet the criteria. Our bus service is not running at this time, but we would not be screening students before they get on. I have of some apps that have been developed and require parents to complete for their child every morning to confirm that their child is well and that they do not have a fever. We have no plans in using this.
Do you have an isolation room?	Yes - well ventilated, big enough to keep 2m distance, very little furniture in there to aid cleaning, masks, gloves and disinfectant spray
Where do students store their belongings?	Back backs, no lockers at this time. Younger students on pegs outside classrooms, older students on back of chairs.

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How (and by whom) is health office cleaned following an ill student?	I do this as I am here and can do it immediately. I am also then able to know the standard it is cleaned too. I am not washing floors at this time, just cleaning surfaces with disinfectant and high touch areas.
are the students being screened before school each day? At home or at school?	No - see box 32
Can you please provide More info on screening tool?	The screening tool is from the government. It is a simple set of questions to advise if you should contact your doctor depending on history and symptoms. Link here: https://check.bag-coronavirus.ch/screening
Common water fountains—allowed?	We have shut these off
Airborne and contact food allergies, how are you handling those with students eating in the classrooms?	We reminded parents whose children are in the same class as those children with allergies and ask them to help at this time by not sending in food with a specific allergen. Teachers are cleaning desks before and after eating.
Have you had any cases on campus since your return?	No - not that we are aware of. The number in Switzerland of confirmed cases are below 20 each day at the moment.
These are all precautions put in place at private school, are public schools following the same?	This document is a copy of the document we created in school. It lists Federal and cantonal requirements and then the steps we have done to meet these. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZmZzg8V6nsykLRHP_4boudeF7B6LvGkdBxWk3Nyn8el/edit
How do you plan to manage high school students and 2 meter distancing? They tend toglom on to one another and strict discipline is an issue.	High school is not yet open. They are due to open on 8th June, however will have to maintain 2m distancing. This will be a challenge. In the high school they have removed desks from classrooms. put tape in the corridors to ensure people only walk in one direction. The government have said that if we can not meet the 2m distance for students we can run smaller classes or continue with distance learning.

Question	Answer
<p>Even if children do not tend to catch COVID from other children... children are with adults at home and with adults at school, so how do you prevent them carrying the virus from one adult to another adult? Thinking of large populations of teachers who are technically high risk due to age...</p>	<p>Our teachers are not high risk on our campus (high risk being over 65 or with previous health conditions). The retirement age in Switzerland is 65 so the majority of teachers are not high risk. Those that are classed as high risk continue to work from home. The key strategies of social distancing, hand washing, ventilation, etc... are the steps we expect teacher to take in order to keep themselves safe.</p>
<p>when parents, staff have symptoms how and who are they reporting to the school?</p>	<p>Staff report to me and I would expect them to do the screening online and follow those guidelines. They need to be 48 symptom free too and come back to work via my office to be checked in the same way students are. If parents are keeping children off school we ask for the reason why and document this so we can monitor when they return. In the event that a person undergoes testing, we have asked parents / staff to inform us and stay away from school until the result is known (normally within 24 hours). If positive result the health department contact tracing team will contact the school.</p>
<p>Do the staff understand that the face cover does not protect them but protect the ones they are with?</p>	<p>Yes, some teachers like it as they feel it keeps their hands away from their faces. I would question if this gives them a false sense of security.</p>
<p>Are there any after school daycare facilities that are accepting students for care?</p>	<p>Yes all day care facilities / child care facilities are open</p>
<p>about how many students or staff visit the nurse daily for consultation?</p>	<p>Normally 40 plus, first few days back we had 2 or 3 children a day. yesterday we had 18</p>
<p>What do you do for kids that need to be picked up for doctors appointments during the school day?</p>	<p>Parents go to the reception and will meet the children there. If I am sending one home, I ask parents to call me once they are at school and meet them in an outside space so they do not need to enter the building.</p>
<p>Are parents allowed in the school to pick up sick children?</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>How will the follow-up work? What would have to happen to close school again?</p>	<p>To close the school I would expect to see a steady rise in cases across Switzerland and would see the country go back into lock down. Lockdown previously happened at approx 800 reported cases a day.</p>

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How do you handle kids needing medications that were scheduled when having a isolation student in the same room	The room is big enough to be able to social distance easily. The medications are near the front of the room and sick students are at the other end (near the window). So they would not be in close contact at all.