



ESCOLA
AMERICANA
DO RIO
DE JANEIRO

EARJ UPPER SCHOOL RETURN TO CAMPUS PLAN

Home of the Panthers



Updated October 2020



FINDING OUR PATH

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged society in every imaginable way. As we look to the future, we do so with its impact still being felt locally, regionally and globally. Yet we remain committed to finding ways to keep our school moving forward.

It is a situation that demands the best of us, at the worst of times.

At EARJ, we have the resources, expertise and inventiveness to forge a path ahead that both manages the risks we face, and maintains our mission and purpose. Last year we showed how our school is able to execute a rapid shift in how we provide our educational program. It is essential that we continue to apply those same dispositions - creativity, problem-solving, resilience, open mindedness, courage - to set a course that safeguards our children and their learning, as well as the health of those who work with them.

This updated plan outlines what we will do to maintain learning for our students in ways that are as safe as possible for everyone. We hope that it inspires confidence in our determination to ensure that learning will continue, and that every EARJ student will find our path together as a community.

Nigel J Winnard, EdD
Headmaster

October 2020

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our Return to Campus Plan is built upon five fundamental principles:

1. We prioritize health, safety, and well being
2. We continue student learning
3. We never lose sight of our mission, vision and purpose
4. We support the people of our community
5. We communicate frequently, clearly and transparently



OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of our community should know, value and care for others. This means our interactions with others - friends and strangers, students and adults - should be self-aware, respectful, and courteous.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it means complying willingly with behaviors designed to keep our community safe and healthy. It means thinking of others, appreciating that their risk tolerance might be lower than ours, and adjusting our behavior with sensitivity and respect. And it means respecting policies and expectations, even when inconvenient to ourselves.

This is why all families in the EARJ community are asked to sign and support the EARJ Community Commitment. It is an important way in which our families show their mutual respect for each other, as well as our mutual responsibilities to keep each other safe through our own behaviors.

By everyone doing their part, the school community can be confident that all reasonable precautions are being taken to keep the school campus safe. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that there remains a low-risk that students, teachers, or staff members may be exposed to COVID-19 in the course of their work or studies.

RISK ASSESSMENT & DECISION MAKING

Our Return to Campus Plan recognizes that we must be vigilant in assessing risk using all means at our disposal. We must match that assessment with appropriate measures to keep everyone safe and healthy whilst maintaining student learning.

The School Administration assesses the level of risk and makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors makes the final decision on the school's risk status.

ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF RISK

LEVEL I Full Campus Return	LEVEL II Hybrid School [relaxed]	LEVEL III Hybrid School [strict]	LEVEL IV Distance Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government guidance allows reopening• CDC, WHO, trusted authorities indicate low risk• Degree of medical certainty, including easy access to reliable testing• Local infection rates declining and traceable• EARJ confident in ability to mitigate risk when school is fully open• Most schools opening campuses fully	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government guidance allows reopening• CDC, WHO, trusted authorities indicate moderate risk• Degree of medical uncertainty exists• Local infection rates confined / traceable• EARJ confident in ability to mitigate risk with enhanced measures• School benchmarking indicates schools are opening with precautions		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State of Emergency or government request for schools to close• CDC, WHO, authorities indicate high risk• High degree of medical uncertainty• Rising local infection rates and/or remaining at concerning levels• Known infections within EARJ• EARJ not confident it can effectively mitigate risk and ensure safety• Many schools closed campuses

THE UPPER SCHOOL RETURN TO CAMPUS

In a Hybrid School situation (Level III or II), Upper School students will attend on-campus on alternating days. All students will follow a full schedule of classes.

Students are required to attend class remotely on those days when they are not scheduled to attend class on campus.

The differences between Levels II & III concern the level of on-campus restrictions in terms of health, hygiene and physical distancing. Level III is more restrictive than Level II. Please refer to the matrix for details.

Any transition from Level III to II - as circumstances permit - will allow us to slowly reintroduce some Upper School activities on campus that more restrictive protocols do not permit, thus paving the way to a full campus return and Level I.



PARALLEL DISTANCE LEARNING

Some students in Grades 6-12 may choose not to return to campus, once it is open, the students will participate in Parallel Distance Learning (PDL).

Our PDL Program is fully synchronous and includes joining classroom lessons via online platforms.

Students in PDL will follow the same learning at the same pace as their on-campus peers. Please contact the Upper School Office for a copy of our Parallel Distance Learning in the Upper School guide.



THE UPPER SCHOOL LEARNING READINESS

We are committed to making sure that all Upper School students are supported in their learning, no matter where they may be on their learning journey.

It is standard EARJ practice for our teachers to regularly assess where students are in their learning. This has been particularly important during distance learning and will continue to be focused upon as we return to campus.

Upper School students who continue to demonstrate gaps in learning will be supported with individualized interventions and lessons focused on critical learning. Students who demonstrate a need for social/emotional support related to their chosen mode of learning will work with our guidance counselors, who work closely with families to coordinate individualized support.



THE UPPER SCHOOL ROUTINES

Campus Attendance

If the school opens at Level II or Level III, Upper School students will attend on-campus learning on alternating days, with no more than 50% of each Grade level (designated to return) on campus each day. This means that 50% of students will attend remotely on those days when they do not have on-campus attendance. The school will group students into family groups to ensure that students from the same family are scheduled to attend on-campus learning on the same alternating days.

Arrival & Dismissal

Students must walk directly to class upon arrival and proceed to their first class to arrive on time, maintaining a physical distance of 2.0 meters at all times. At the end of the school day, all Upper School Students must continue to respect physical distancing rules during dismissal. Students will not be permitted to congregate together or loiter in common areas. All families will be provided with further details of arrival and dismissal procedures before the first day of an on-campus return.

Student Movement

In order to minimize contact with others, the movement of students within the school will be limited as much as possible. Where possible, Upper School students will remain in a single classroom and specialist teachers will join the students in their designated classroom. Where this is not possible, students will proceed to their classes following designated on-campus traffic patterns that have been designed to minimize interaction with others. Students will do so while maintaining physical distancing.

THE UPPER SCHOOL ROUTINES

Classrooms & Learning Spaces

Upper School classrooms will be set up to allow for appropriate physical distancing with a maximum of 12 students in each class. Students will be required to remain socially distanced from their classmates throughout the course of the lesson/day. Special health and hygiene arrangements have been designed for specialist learning spaces, such as Physical Education and Music. These will be shared with parents and students.

Upper School Break

Appropriate physical distancing measures will be put in place during breaks to limit the interactions of students beyond their classroom groups, and, in some cases, students may have to remain in their classrooms during break rather than in a common break area.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All PE classes will resume and students can expect to be physically active while physical distancing and wearing masks.

Exceptions may be made by the PE teacher based on informed professional judgment according to activity level, weather, and physical distancing within the activity and with respect to the school's health guidelines.

Students will not be permitted to shower, but will be allowed to change clothes in the locker room based on a staggered release from class to continue practicing physical distancing.



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Activities and athletics are an important part of the EARJ student experience and these guidelines and protocols provide us with a way to allow our students to be able to safely participate when circumstances allow.

Some sports require physical contact by the nature of the competition. Contact is inevitable in other sports (eg basketball and soccer), even when inadvertent or through shared equipment. Therefore, there are only a few sports where physical distancing feels even remotely plausible.

There is less risk in the activities EARJ offers, although physical distancing challenges are greater in some activities more than others. EARJ will implement occupancy limitations for facilities to help with physical distancing. We will also limit the number of daily participants in co-curriculars, if necessary.

The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee has proposed a risk scale for COVID-19 transmission to guide safe participation in athletic activities.

EARJ has adapted this scale to categorize its co-curricular offerings from high risk (1) to low risk (3).

These ratings do not mean sports will automatically be cancelled; rather, we are looking closely at the risks involved in each sport or activity to assess whether those risks can be mitigated.

Whilst there will be significant restrictions on Athletics and Activities when we initially reopen campus, we hope to relax them as time gives by.

RETURN TO CAMPUS - ACCESS

EARJ is very much a community school, with the presence of parents on campus as an important element of our character.

In these challenging times, that freedom has to be more limited as we match risk with appropriate safety measures to protect all members of our community, while returning to campus in ways that are as safe as possible.

We look forward to being able to welcome all parents back to campus once the Covid-19 situation has abated. Until then, we ask for your support in refraining from visiting campus.

	Low Risk Level I	Medium Risk Level II & III	High Risk Level IV
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms • 48-hour fever-free without medication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms • 48-hour fever-free without medication. • Students required to answer a health questionnaire prior to reopening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to campus allowed
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms • 48-hour fever-free without medication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms • 48-hour fever-free without medication. • Staff required to answer a health questionnaire prior to reopening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No campus access without HM Office authorization.
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted by appointment • If without symptoms and 48-hour fever-free without medication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents remain in the car during Drop Off & Dismissal. • Parent meetings will happen virtually. • No campus access without HM Office authorization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to campus allowed

RETURN TO CAMPUS - STAYING SAFE

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR UPPER SCHOOL CHILD TO SCHOOL IF:

- He/She has any of the following symptoms:
 - Body temperature of 37.5C or higher
 - Extreme tiredness
 - Loss of taste and smell
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Diarrhea
- Someone in your household has, or is suspected of having, Covid-19.
- You or your child has had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Close contact is being within 2m of an infected person for at least 15 minutes without a mask, or with an infected person coughing or sneezing even with a mask, or with whom you've had physical contact.

For any of the scenarios above, please immediately contact the Upper School Office.



RETURN TO CAMPUS - STAYING SAFE

BEFORE LEAVING HOME

Please make sure your child brings the following items to school:

BACKPACK:

Keep items from home in a single backpack to access in school.
Lockers will not be available.

MASKS:

4 masks to be used throughout the school day;
2 plastic bags to keep clean and dirty masks separate;
Please avoid masks with any political or religious themes in keeping with the spirit of school dress code.

WATER BOTTLE:

No disposable cups will be available on campus.

SNACKS:

Snack shacks are closed. Make sure to send snacks for break time.

BYOD - BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE:

Students will need a laptop while on campus.



RETURN TO CAMPUS - STAYING SAFE

BOOKS and CLASS MATERIALS:

Students must bring books and supplies from home that are needed for class. These materials will not be distributed in classes by the teacher. These materials must remain with the student in class or placed in their backpack, when not needed.

We also encourage your child to bring the following item to school:

HAND SANITIZER:

Although we have hand sanitizers on campus, a personal hand sanitizer should always be kept in the backpack in case of need.

HAND WASHING:

All Upper School students must use the hand washing stations regularly during the school day.



RETURN TO CAMPUS - STAYING SAFE

ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

Here are the health measures to be taken before your child enters EARJ campus:

MASKS:

Masks are mandatory for all Upper School students and must be worn from the moment of arrival on campus.

TEMPERATURE CHECK:

All students will have their temperature checked while still in the car. It is not allowed to enter on campus with body temperature at 37.5C or higher; Students who ride school buses/vans, will have their temperature checked before leaving home.

SANITIZER CARPETS:

Shoes are to be cleaned on the carpet upon entrance.

SANITIZE HANDS:

Hands must be thoroughly sanitized before entering school each day and before moving within campus.

IDENTIFICATION:

Use of EARJ Student ID cards/keychains is necessary. Fingerprint ID is not available.



HEALTH MEASURES ON CAMPUS

Please see the individual measures expected to be taken by your child while on campus:

USAGE OF MASKS:

They are mandatory during all times at school for all students as of Kindergarten up.

HAND WASHING:

Knee activated sinks placed at the common areas to facilitate hand washing.

HAND SANITIZERS:

There are hand sanitizer dispensers in every entrance, room, office, reception, cafeteria, hall, stairs and common areas.

SIGNAGE ON CAMPUS:

Directional signs are to be followed;
Some benches have the signage “No sitting allowed” to guarantee social distance.

SOCIAL DISTANCE:

Maintain appropriate distance (2m if possible).

TOUCHING SURFACES SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

PERSONAL ITEMS MUST NOT BE SHARED.

NO SHARING OF FOOD.

HEALTH MEASURES ON CAMPUS

CIRCULATION FLOW:

There are signs to organize circulation on campus that must be respected.

ROOM CAPACITY:

Classrooms and offices have a 50% maximum capacity of people allowed inside at the same time to respect the social distance of 2m.

HYGIENE KITS:

Offices and Classrooms will have hygiene kits containing hand sanitizer pumps, multiple 70% liquid alcohol, tissue paper, and paper towels which will be checked and replaced frequently by the cleaning staff.

PROTECTION BARRIERS:

Office Secretaries have protection barriers on their desks;
Other protection barriers have been installed in appropriate locations.

SEATING:

Students should not exchange seats in the classroom.

CLEANING & DISINFECTION MEASURES:

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected twice a day;
All common area touchpoints will be disinfected daily;
Sanitization and disinfection will be carried out through nano-nebulization in all school premises;
A disinfection is scheduled for the eve before classes restart.

HEALTH MEASURES ON CAMPUS

AIR CIRCULATION:

Doors and windows will be kept opened, whenever possible;
AC units are only allowed on ventilation mode with doors and windows open;
Central Air Conditioner units can be used and are prepared to renew the air in the classroom;
Air and water quality control have been enhanced according to current legislation.

WATER FOUNTAINS:

Water fountains have been replaced with more hygiene friendly units.

CAMPUS VISITS:

Gávea and Barra campuses are closed to non-essential visitors;
Absolutely no visitors are allowed on campuses without the approval of the Headmaster's Office.

FOOD SERVICE:

Upper School Students will eat lunch on campus. Protocols have been put in place related to how food is distributed and where students may sit so that appropriate social distancing is maintained. Protection barriers have also been put in place;

Snack shacks are closed; Snacks must be provided from home;

External food deliveries are not permitted.

LEAVING CAMPUS

When your child leaves school, make sure he/she will:

- Keep the mask on;
- Wash his/her hands or use hand sanitizer;
- Avoid gathering;
- Keep social distance - 2m;
- Not share personal items.

ARRIVING AT HOME

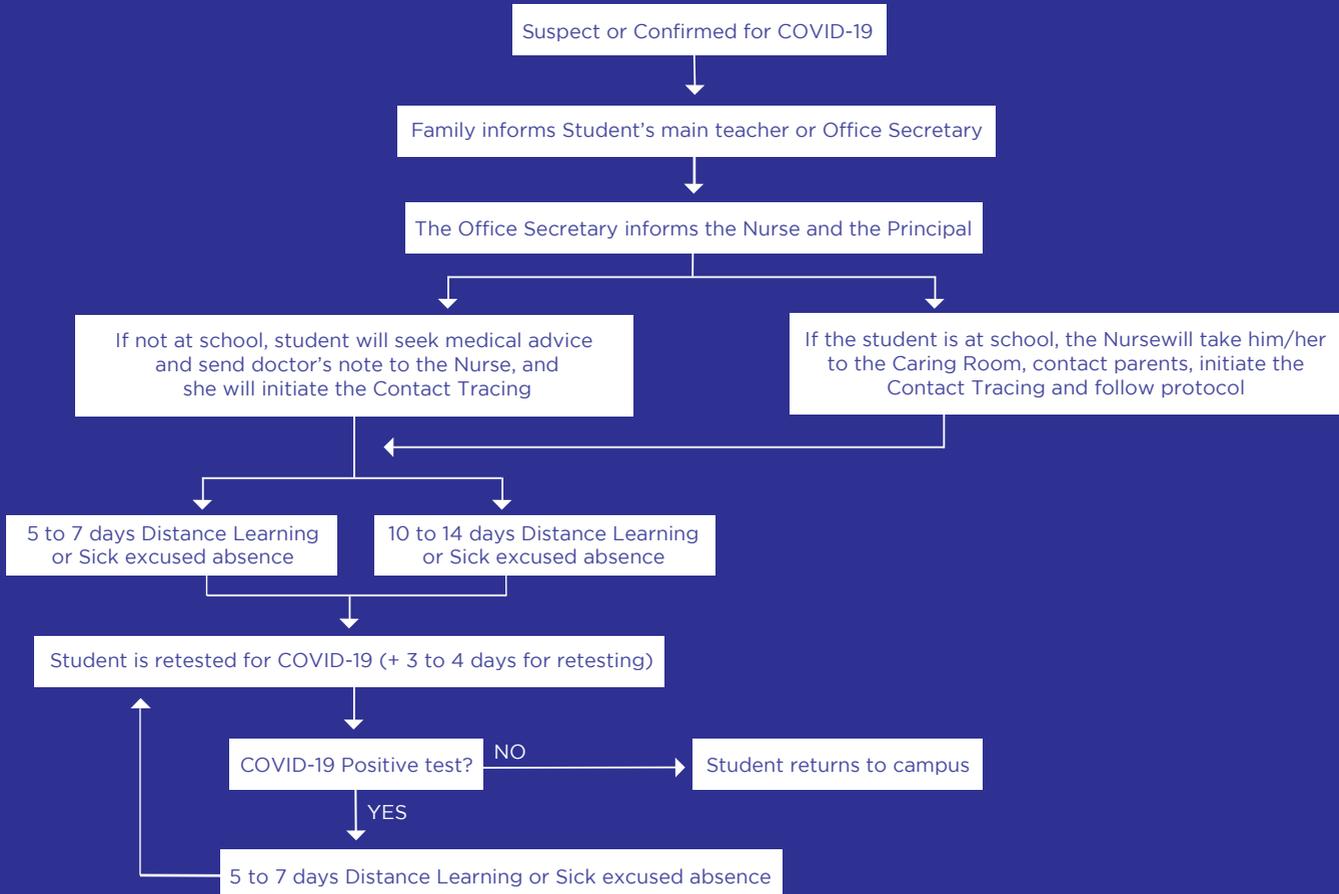
In order to be safe at home:

- Shoes should be removed before entering home;
- Hands should be washed with lots of soap and water;
- Shower as soon as possible;
- Personal belongings are to be cleaned with 70% liquid alcohol (backpack, cell phone, wallet, bag, etc).



IN CASE A STUDENT IS TESTED COVID POSITIVE OR IS A SUSPECT CASE:

EARJ will monitor students' health situation. The general process below outlines the steps through which COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases are conducted. The EARJ health department in conjunction with an externally-hired medical consultancy are available to support and guide families in these circumstances.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE IN UPPER SCHOOL:

Scheduling & Attendance

Can I choose which session my child attends?

Unfortunately this is not possible. The US administration and teachers make every effort to achieve rosters that are balanced, and based upon learning and grouping needs.

When will the school communicate the US class rosters and schedules?

We will communicate US schedules once Community Commitment documents have been returned. The number of on campus learners is balanced by the Upper School administration and adjusted as needed.

Will students have the same teachers for on-campus and parallel distance learning?

Yes, students will have the same teachers for both modes of instruction. It is important that your child has a consistent teacher and we have built this into our plan as a core element.

How will the transition process for newcomers to school be handled to support their entrance to EARJ?

New students to EARJ will be supported by their teachers and peers. As with any new student, they will be assigned a class buddy to help them with routines and campus layout.

Health & Wellbeing

What measures is the school taking for hygiene and cleaning protocols?

The school has a rigorous cleaning protocol, including increased staffing in place. We are aligned with CDC, WHO, and local authority guidelines. Besides regular cleaning, there will be classrooms and public space disinfection taking place regularly.

What documents will be necessary for students to return to campus?

Please see the EARJ Community Commitment for details. Please remember that it must be turned as soon as they are received.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will temperature checks be made at arrival in all students? How many times?

Yes. Temperature checks will be done daily upon arrival and if a student is sent to the nurse. Please also check your child before leaving home if you suspect they may have a fever.

Will EARJ staff be tested for Covid-19 before classes on campus start?

All faculty and staff are tested before they work with students. We will test faculty and staff on a randomized rotation, or as needed in the case of health concerns.

What is the plan if a student or teacher tests positive?

We will take the necessary measures to isolate the affected student or staff member. We will notify the people who had direct contact with him/her, and deep clean the area.

Will all parents be informed about new Covid-19 cases within the school community?

In the event of an on-campus infection, we will make sure that everyone who needs to know is appropriately informed - with due regard to confidentiality of course.

What are going to be the school options for students that are in high risk?

Students who are not able to attend in-person school due to clinical conditions should opt for Parallel Distance Learning on the EARJ Community Commitment form.

What are going to be the school options for teachers that are in high risk?

Not all teachers will be able to work from campus. Some will be working from home as, like several of our families, they are in a designated at-risk category. This has been built into our plans. Further details will be communicated to those families whose children are involved.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is quarantine required for students who travel?

We suggest that you and your family avoid non-essential travel during the pandemic. We are in a stage of community transmission, where quarantine is not officially mandated. If you participated in higher risk activities or think that you may have been exposed before or during your trip, consult with your doctor for further instructions before returning to school or work. Regardless of where you traveled or what you did during your trip, make sure you take all necessary preventive actions to protect others from getting sick. In case you or anyone in your house who have COVID-19 related symptoms, please do not send your child to school and contact the school nurse for further instructions about EARJ protocols for suspected cases.

Your health also depends on you.

If you have any questions, please contact the school nurses:
nursegavea@earj.com.br
2125-9140
2125-9023
nursebarra@earj.com.br
3747-2011



Natália Caldas



Flavia Almeida



Mayra Wilbert

A special thank you for the PTA and the U.S. Consulate
for their contributions to the EARJ COVID-19 Mitigation Plan.