

PANTHERS RETURN!



ESCOLA
AMERICANA
DO RIO
DE JANEIRO

CAMPUS GUIDELINES

2021-2022 SEMESTER 2



GLOSSARY

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1. INTRODUCTION

The following guidelines have been developed in conjunction with medical experts and have the benefit of 18 months hard earned experience of managing COVID in our community. We have learnt a great deal about what works, what does not work, and how to keep our faculty, staff and students safe and healthy. The guidelines take into consideration what we know about the new variant, as well as the context of EARJ being a school where we rely heavily on vaccination as a core protective measure.

It is thanks to the continued commitment of our community that we have been able to move our school forward, and keep learning happening for our students. We are proud that we were able to get all our students back on campus in ways that never compromised health and safety. This has always been our stance throughout the pandemic: to be the safest place in Rio de Janeiro in which to learn.

You will see that some changes have been made based on what we have learnt and how the landscape has evolved. We have used the resources, expertise, and inventiveness at our disposal to set a path ahead that both manages the risks that we still face, and maintains our mission and purpose. Through creativity, problem-solving, resilience, open-mindedness, and courage we have shown that we are able to safeguard our students and their learning, as well as the health of all those who work in our community.

The EARJ Health Department monitors the COVID-19 situation in Rio de Janeiro very closely and helps to support our community when they need it. We have revised all our health protocols over the school break to both learn from our experiences last year and to anticipate challenges that may face us in the weeks and months to come.

We hope that the following pages continue to inspire confidence in our shared commitment that we will always put people first, and that learning will always continue. We have achieved so much together as a community. There is no doubt that together we will continue to move forward.

Nigel J Winnard, EdD Headmaster

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Although it remains a possibility that students, teachers, or staff members may be exposed to COVID-19 in the course of their work or studies, everyone is entitled to expect that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent this from happening.

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. It means respecting policies and expectations, even when inconvenient to ourselves.

This is why all families in the EARJ community were asked to sign and support an EARJ Community Commitment for 2021-22. 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.

2.2 RISK ASSESSMENT & DECISION MAKING

We recognize 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 at periodic intervals, and makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors should we need to make any significant changes to school operations.

2.3 RETURN TO CAMPUS

Level I Low Risk - Full Campus School

This is a traditional school experience with all students attending school in person five days a week and all community activities back to normal.

Levels II & III Medium Risk - Hybrid School

A blend of face-to-face learning while leveraging digital experiences in ways that are integrated and planned as part of a coordinated whole. Our Hybrid School model allows us to relax or heighten on-campus health and safety procedures under a medium risk scenario.

Levels IV Moderate Risk & V High Risk - Distance Learning

Our campuses are partially open or closed. Students may be required to attend school virtually.

2.4 CAMPUS REOPENING STATUS

The decision if students can attend classes on campus or not is made the EARJ Board of Directors, following recommendations from the Leadership Team and Health Authorities. The Board communicates to parents and the Leadership Team prepares the routines accordingly.

The following pages describe what an on campus learning looks like, as well as what parallel distance learning looks like.

2.5 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 limiting the number of adults on campus.

	Low Risk Level I	Medium Risk Level II & III	Moderate Risk Level IV	High Risk Level V
STUDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms, no previous contact with a Covid positive case, and if the student is vaccinated against Covid according to his/her age group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms with some restrictions and if without symptoms and no previous contact with a Covid positive person. • All or some grades on campus if the student is vaccinated against Covid according to his/her age group. Parallel Distance Learning options provided for medical reasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial campus opening or full closure. • All or some grades on campus if the student is vaccinated against Covid according to his/her age group. Parallel Distance Learning options provided for medical reasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to campus allowed. • All students on Distance Learning.
STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms, no previous contact with a Covid positive case, and if you are vaccinated against Covid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms and if without symptoms and no previous contact with a Covid positive person, and if you are vaccinated against Covid. • Staff tested for Covid-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted if without symptoms and if without symptoms and no previous contact with a Covid positive person, and if you are vaccinated against Covid. • Staff tested for Covid-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No campus access without the Headmaster's Office authorization.
PARENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access permitted by appointment. • Access permitted if without symptoms, no previous contact with a Covid positive case, and if vaccinated against Covid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents remain in the car during Drop Off & Dismissal. • Parent meetings will happen virtually. • No campus access without Headmaster's Office authorization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents remain in the car during Drop Off & Dismissal. • Parent meetings will happen virtually. • No campus access without Headmaster's Office authorization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to campus allowed.

3. LEARNING MODE

EARJ offers two learning modes for the duration of the pandemic:

On Campus / In Person Mode

This is where students attend school on campus with face-to-face instruction with teachers according to the regular school schedule.

Parallel Distance Learning (PDL) Mode

This is where students attend class remotely for some or all of the school day, following the same curriculum taught by the same teachers at the same time as on campus classes.

The expectation is that the norm is for students to attend On Campus In Person. However, EARJ recognises that there are some families who have specific health circumstances that mean they are unable to send their child to campus at this time. Those students may attend in the mode known as Parallel Distance Learning (PDL).

The school will make every effort to support the learning needs of students enrolled in PDL for reasons that are clearly medically linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school reserves the right to move students from On Campus learning to PDL as part of its infection management protocol, should it be required.

Whilst parents are provided with the right to selecting PDL for medical reasons, the school does not support the elective movement from on campus to PDL by families for reasons that are unrelated to the pandemic. The expectation is that any family selecting PDL will do so for a prolonged period of time in keeping with the medical reason preventing On Campus attendance.

All families are required to submit a signed Learning Mode Agreement prior to the start of the school year, or prior to joining EARJ in the case of new families.

3.1 LOWER SCHOOL ROUTINES

A) Arrival & Dismissal

Students walk directly to class upon arrival or to a predetermined location for teacher pick-up. Social distancing is maintained under supervision by EARJ staff at all times. For dismissal, students are socially distanced and escorted directly to the designated pick up location.

B) Student Movement

In order to minimize contact with others, there are limitations on student movement around campus. Lower School students are staying in their homeroom class for all lessons, with the exception of Physical Education. Students also have a daily outdoor break for recess.

C) Classrooms & Learning Spaces

Classrooms and learning spaces have been remodeled to accommodate full classes. Students use and keep material in an individual materials box. Any material that is sent home should remain at home. Adjustments are being made in the use of school books to meet health regulations. During PE classes students have the opportunity to be active outside while physically distancing and wearing masks.

D) Recess in Lower School

Students are provided with opportunities for recess and play daily. Appropriate physical distancing measures are in place during recess to keep students in their assigned groupings.

3.2 UPPER SCHOOL ROUTINES

A) 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 1,5 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 are not permitted to congregate together or loiter in common areas.

B) Student Movement

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

C) Classrooms & Learning Spaces

Classrooms and Learning Spaces have been remodeled to accommodate Upper School groups. Students are 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.

D) Upper School Break

Appropriate physical distancing measures are 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.

3.3 PARALLEL DISTANCE LEARNING

Some students may not be able to return to campus and will be enrolled in Parallel Distance (PDL) for health related reasons. Our PDL Program connects off-campus students with their on-campus peers in a blend of synchronous and asynchronous ways.

Please contact the Lower or Upper School Offices for more information regarding Parallel Distance Learning requirements.

3.4 PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Students can expect to be physically active in scheduled PE classes 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. PE is an important part of the student experience and our protocols provide us with a way to allow our students to be able to safely enjoy physical exercise and the learning that comes from participation in PE classes.



4. HEALTH INFORMATION

4.1 PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF:

- You have informed the school that your child will be attending classes via Parallel Distance Learning.
- He/She has ANY of the following symptoms:
 - Body temperature of 37.5C or higher
 - Extreme tiredness
 - Loss of taste and smell
 - Consistent dry cough
 - Intense sore throat
 - Two or more episodes of diarrhea
 - Difficulty breathing

If in any case your child gets worse, please seek your doctor's guidance or go to the hospital.

- In case he/she tested positive for COVID-19.
- Someone in your household has, or is suspected of having, COVID-19 or is doing a COVID test.
- In case he/she had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Close contact is defined as any individual who was within 1,5 m of infected people for a total of 15 minutes without mask and the infected person was coughing or sneezing even with a mask, or with whom you've had any physical contact.

(EVEN IF HE/SHE HAS BEEN VACCINATED AND/OR ALREADY HAD COVID-19).

For any of the scenarios above, please immediately contact the School Offices. This is very important! If your child comes to school with any of those symptoms, he/she can transmit COVID-19 to a friend or a teacher. Even if the symptoms are mild, they may not be mild in another person. When in doubt about the symptoms, please **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL**, contact your family doctor for instructions and inform the school office.

4.2 STAYING SAFE

A) BEFORE LEAVING HOME

A.1) Please make sure your child brings the following items to school:

- MASKS:
 - Avoid cloth masks, prefer disposable or PFF2/N95 masks. They are available in the Nurses' offices, and school offices;
 - Have 3 masks to be used throughout the school day.
- WATER BOTTLE:
 - No disposable cups are available, bring your own water bottle/mug/reusable cup.
- SNACKS:
 - The snack shack will be closed for a few weeks to avoid gatherings with no masks, make sure students send individually wrapped snacks for recess time;
 - External food deliveries are not permitted
- PENCIL CASE:
 - Plastic pencil case to be kept at 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.

- **PRESCHOOL:**

- In addition to the materials above, Preschool students should bring an extra change of clothes in their backpack.

A.2) Please do not allow your child to bring the following items to school:

- Extra backpacks
- Stuffed animals
- Pets



B) HEALTH MEASURES ON CAMPUS

- MASKS:
 - Masks are mandatory for all students, make sure your child has his/her mouth and nose fully covered the whole time.
- SANITIZE HANDS:
 - Hands must be thoroughly sanitized with alcohol gel or washed before arriving on campus and when entering and leaving classrooms/places.
- IDENTIFICATION:
 - Use of EARJ Student ID cards/key chains is necessary. Fingerprint ID is not available. Avoid touching the turnstiles.
- SOCIAL DISTANCE:
 - Maintain appropriate distance (1,5m if possible).
- PERSONAL ITEMS MUST NOT BE SHARED.
- SIGNAGE ON CAMPUS:
 - Be mindful of the benches that have the signage “No sitting allowed” or an “X” to guarantee social distance.
- ROOM CAPACITY:
 - Classrooms and offices are organized respecting the social distance of 1,5m.
- PROTECTION BARRIERS:
 - Office Secretaries and Lower School classrooms 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 & DISINFECTING MEASURES:
 - Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily;
 - All common area touch points will be disinfected daily.
- AIR CIRCULATION:
 - Doors and windows must be open, whenever possible; door chocks are available for all rooms;
 - AC units are allowed with windows partially 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:
 - Wide access to water fountains is available on both campuses.
- 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.

C) 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 - 1,5m;
- Not share personal items;
- Avoid agglomerations and ask your child to use masks all the time when leaving the house. We must continue to follow the golden rules for the duration of the pandemic, to avoid COVID-19 spread in our families and at school;
- 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 you have visitors, employees or services being rendered at your house, please make sure that you and the other people wear masks, wash hands frequently and maintain social distance in order to protect your family.

5. COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

5.1 IN CASE YOU OR YOUR CHILD ALREADY HAD COVID-19 OR HAS BEEN VACCINATED

There is no definitive answer yet about for how long immunity lasts, nor how effective it is, so please continue to follow the preventive measures to protect you children, your family and the school community.

In case you or your child feels any of the symptoms listed on page 8, or someone in your household is positive for COVID-19, please follow the same procedures listed in this material, despite the fact that you/he/she already had COVID-19 or have been vaccinated.

5.2 TRAVELING

In case you are planning to travel locally or abroad, please check for the place's preventive measures and required quarantine.

Plan your dates with extra time for eventual flight changes or cancellations. There are no current recommendations from medical authorities regarding quarantine for travelers arriving in Brazil, but keep in mind that this situation may change depending on how the pandemic will develop in the next couple of months.

Check the 2021-22 School Calendar on our Website for dates.

5.3 CONTACT TRACING

This is the process we use to identify anyone who has been directly exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 in close and sustained circumstances.

Based on CDC and others, close contact happens when a person with a lack of mask stays within 1,5 meters for more than 15 min in an enclosed space.

In case someone tests positive the school nurses interview the infected to help them recall everyone they have had close contact with during the time they may have been infectious and then interviews any contacts named in that conversation. Covid Team in conjunction with external doctors evaluates the situation.

Identified closed contacts will be informed and oriented by the Nurse to watch their own health status, remain home, PCR test on the appropriate day if necessary, and seek a private physician if symptoms worsen.

Only people who have had close sustained contact with the positive person will be isolated. According to current Health Protocols, if we follow health's guidelines, there will be no need to close the classroom.

Please remember:

- Not all contacts with a diagnosed or confirmed positive COVID-19 case are classified as first contact. If in doubt, ask the Nurse.
- The infection response protocol considers several possible scenarios and the final decision is made by the EARJ Covid Evaluation Team, in consultation with our medical advisors.

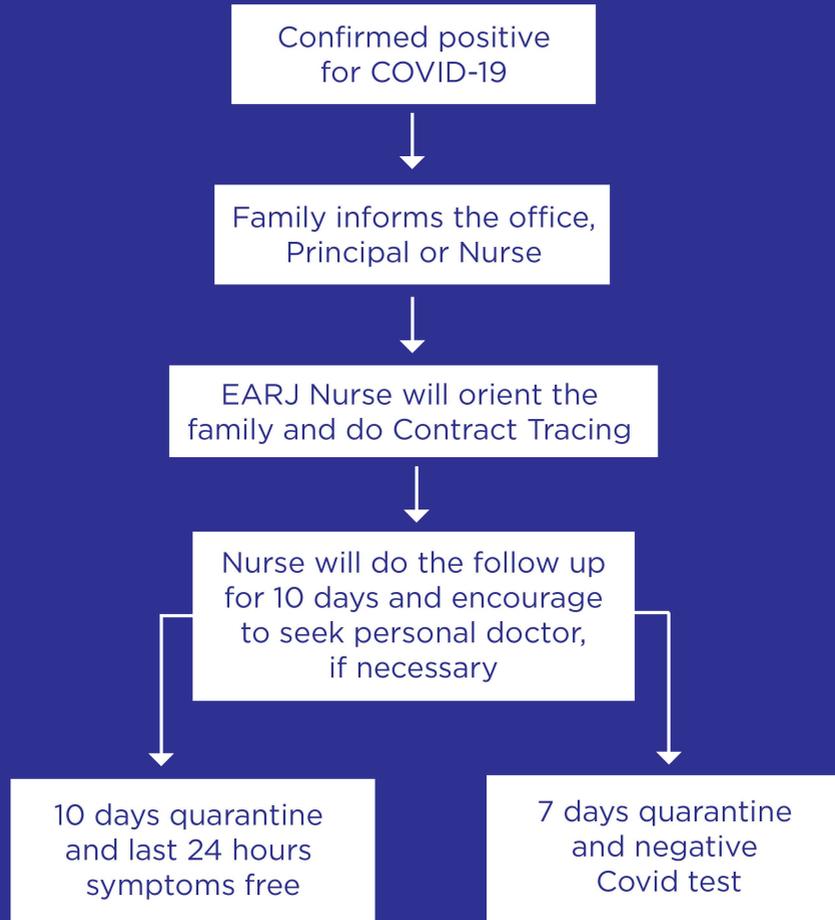
EARJ will monitor students' health situation. The general process below outlines the steps through which COVID-19 confirmed are conducted. The EARJ health department in conjunction with an externally-hired medical professional consultancy are available to support and guide families in these circumstances.

For best accuracy, Covid tests are recommended not on the 5th day anymore, but on the 3rd day after the Covid-like symptoms or when recommended by your private physician.

In case a positive COVID-19 is detected at school, the actions listed on the flowchart will be taken and the positive student will be isolated or put in self-quarantine + PDL for up to 10 days, not 14 days anymore. The infection response protocol considers several possible scenarios and the final decision is made by the EARJ Covid Evaluation Team, in consultation with our medical advisors.

The infection response scenarios combine various possibilities such as suspect or diagnosed case, symptomatic or asymptomatic, isolate or close pods, close extended pods or even consider a more widespread closure if necessary. In any case, the school will monitor the affected people and pods, and provide support to employees and students involved. Information will be immediately sent out to affected colleagues and parents with students in affected grades.

5.4 STUDENT FLOWCHART



6. VACCINATION

EARJ believes that vaccination offers protection to the individual and the community as a whole. The school staff has been vaccinated in accordance with Rio de Janeiro's Vaccination Calendar.

Please inform the school nurses in case your child has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

According to the school's vaccination policy students 5 years old and above wishing to continue to access on campus learning will be required to be fully vaccinated by the date 14 days following the 2nd dose date for their age group. Whilst most families are in favor of vaccination, there are some that are still reluctant to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 at this time.

Although it is the school's view that COVID-19 vaccination makes sense in that it has been approved by the competent medical authorities, it remains the right of any parent to make decisions about their children's health. We will support those children to the utmost of our ability through our Distance Learning program, should any parent choose this path.

The school's policy also allows for vaccination exemptions, temporary or permanent, based exclusively on medical grounds. In this case, a vaccination exemption request must be submitted to the school administration, including a written statement from the person's primary health care provider, describing the medical condition, and clearly stating if the nature is temporary or permanent. The statement must list non recommended or prohibited vaccines given the particular medical condition. As a parent, you are encouraged to reach out to your pediatrician for further instructions regarding your children's medical conditions to take the vaccine.

7. SCHOOL CONTACTS

In case you have questions about Learning Mode, please contact the Offices at:

School Division	Barra	Gávea
Lower School	Ms. Ana Rotolli - 3747.2003 arotolli@earj.com.br	Ms. Cristiane Gomes - 2125.9044 cgomes@earj.com.br
Upper School	Ms. Ana Morelli - 3747.2002 amorelli@earj.com.br	Ms. Valeria Nepomuceno - 2125.9093 vnepomuceno@earj.com.br (MS) Ms. Sonja Carruthers - 2125.9091 scarruthers@earj.com.br (HS)

In case you have questions about Health Protocols, please contact one of the Nurses at:

Barra	Gávea
nursebarra@earj.com.br 3747-2011 / 2049	nursegavea@earj.com.br 2125-9023 / 9140



Ana Flávia Frois



Flávia Almeida



Mayra Wilbert



Natália Caldas



Rossana Boechat