

# المدرسة البريطانية العالمية بالخبر The British International School of Al Khobar

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## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the School Closure

### Why are schools closing?

We have received a directive from the Ministry of Education addressed directly to BISAK. The reason for the decree is to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect students, as far as possible, from contracting the H1N1 virus (swine flu).

### Isn't this just for Saudi schools?

No. The directive was addressed to BISAK. We consulted the Ministry of Education on this issue and were advised that the directive applies to International Schools as well as Government Schools.

### The paper says that Jeddah schools are open - why do Khobar schools have to shut?

We know that some schools in Jeddah are definitely closing, and can't comment on media reports to the contrary. The British International School in Jeddah has announced that it will close until October 3<sup>rd</sup> – and then review the situation. We do know that The British International school in Riyadh, the Dhahran Academy and the French School are all closing. Dr Anastasiades is in regular contact with other principals to monitor the situation.

### Can't we just reopen anyway?

No. We will not go against Ministry directives.

### What about the universities which reopen 3 October?

The only conclusion we can draw is that these are older students and therefore considered less susceptible. This may be why secondary students are able to return earlier than primary but we don't know exactly why.

### Will there be anyone at the school?

Yes. All staff will be in school to prepare lessons and undergo professional development. Registry will remain open for new enrolments and all administrative staff will also be on site. It is just the students who have to remain home.

### When will you be open?

At present we will resume Secondary classes on 10 October 2009 and Primary classes on 17 October 2009.

### Is there a possibility BISA will open earlier?

We don't know. Certainly there is pressure on the Ministry to exempt international schools or allow primary children back on 10 October, but until we know for sure, secondary classes resume on 10 October 2009, and primary classes will resume 17 October. If we do get clearance to open earlier, we will open as soon as possible and let all parents know via website and emails. All parents should have already received at least 2 emails about the closure; if you have not please forward your current email address to [nooreen@britishschool-ksa.com](mailto:nooreen@britishschool-ksa.com)

### What about homework?

Our intention is to continue to teach our external examination classes, i.e. students in Years 10 and 11, through e-mail and the website. We will be meeting Saturday morning to develop plans for this. Teachers will also work together to devise appropriate project work for students in the Lower Secondary and Upper Primary school. They will also be in touch to give advice on how you can assist your child of a younger Primary age.

### What can parents do?

Encourage your son / daughter to use the time away from formal school to read as much as they possibly can. There is much evidence that suggests that reading does actually help achievement and attainment in all aspects of academic work. Keep an eye on your emails and the school website for developments.

### Where can I find out more information about the H1N1 virus?

The WHO website has regular updates. For up to date information visit: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/h1n1\\_school\\_measures\\_20090911/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/h1n1_school_measures_20090911/en/index.html)

### Anything else?

Yes. Practice good hand hygiene – thorough washing of hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds, being sure to wash all areas of the hands and wrists several times a day. Remove rings for a really good wash. Dry hands with a paper towel and use it to turn the tap off and even open the door out of the bathroom area if you wish – then bin it. **Catch it, kill it, bin it.** Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes and then bin the tissue. If no tissue to hand, use the crook of the elbow or upper arm rather than the hand to cover the deluge of bugs!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS WE HAVE NOT ANSWERED, PLEASE

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