

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TANGANYIKA

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APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 16TH AUGUST 2009 12.30 p.m. IST SECONDARY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Yes	AP	Name	Yes	AP	Name	Yes	AP
Amy Carr	x		Pragnesh Udeshi	x		Salim Ladak	x	
Karin Mader	x		Nina Eshun	x				
Akshay Shah	x		Harish Bhatt	x				
Beverly Brar	x		Oluseyi Onabanjo		x			
Noldi Stals		x	Steef Van den Berg	x				

AP – Apologies

Quorum Y N

Others Present

Administrators: David Shawver, Susan Peacock, Tom Pado

Teachers Representatives: Christie Heitmiller

In Attendance: Dr Ype Smit
Dr. Belia Klaassen

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the H1N1 situation at IST in the light of the latest medical information and decide the immediate course of action for IST.

Dr. Klaassen updated the Board on the number of cases confirmed amongst IST families and staff and the actions taken. The situation is changing rapidly but confirmed cases identified have generally been mild and patients are recovering.

Dr Smit advised the meeting that:

- The latest global medical opinion is that the current strain is not more dangerous than other forms of influenza and the epidemic in no way resembles the SARS or bird flu epidemics in the danger presented. There are however different patterns in different countries and it is important to keep close watch on the situation
- Policy in the EU and USA is not to close schools unless there is widespread infection. The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) has issued new guidance for schools which are posted on the IST website.
- Cases confirmed in the IST clinic have been recovering. Most at risk are people with pre-existing medical conditions, including pregnancy, and young children are more at risk
- The Ministry of Health is closely monitoring the situation in Tanzania and reviewing its policy, which is currently that confirmed cases should be isolated at the Trauma Centre or Muhumbili

Hospital and that family members should stay home for seven days. IST is in close communication with MoH.

- Large indoor gatherings increase the risk of spreading infection
- In many countries, the approach to testing and treatment has changed and now only high risk individuals are tested and treated with Tamiflu
- A vaccine is expected in the next few months, but there are indications that ordinary flu vaccine can give some protection
- Similar precautions should be taken as in other flu epidemics

Other information considered included information from WHO and CDC, and from the US Embassy, and a Pandemic Response Rubric compiled from a wide range of international schools.

In the light of the information considered the Board resolved that in the immediate instance:

- i) IST will remain open subject to constant review of the situation on each campus
- ii) Emphasis will be on delivering the academic programme. Large indoor gatherings, evening meetings and overnight field trips will be avoided, but outdoor activities will continue as normal
- iii) The after-school language programmes using IST premises will be asked to review the situation within their own programmes and advise IST accordingly. We understand that the Japanese after-school programme has already suspended classes.
- iv) Staff with medical conditions which might place them at risk, including pregnancy, must stay out of the classroom if so advised by their medical provider
- v) Parents will be advised to seek medical opinion concerning sending any children with pre-existing medical conditions to school
- vi) In addition to regular classroom hygiene teachers will be asked to take extra precautionary measures
- vii) The already established Crisis Response Group (Director, Principals, Board Chair and IST Doctors) will monitor the situation on a daily basis and inform the remainder of the Board of any changes requiring a review of decisions taken
- viii) The Board will review the situation again at the F and F meeting on Monday 17th August and at its regular Board meeting on Thursday 20th, and thereafter at the intimation of the Crisis Response Group
- ix) The IST community will be informed through the newsletters, emails, letters home, the website and relevant links.

The meeting concluded at 2.10pm.