

LETTER TO PARENTS

RETURN OF STAFF AND LEARNERS

Dear Parents / Guardians

INTRODUCTION

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this policy will serve to inform of the precautionary measures that will be put in place at Bosmansdam High School when our staff and Grade 12 learners return to school. It will also indicate which steps will be taken should the school suspect that any individual may be infected with any contagious medical condition. Please note that this is a draft document which has been circulated to the SMT and SGB for comment. As the measures that were recently announced by the Minister of Education, Angie Motshekga, have not yet been gazetted, there may be a few minor changes to this protocol once that has been done. The staff will return on the 25th May 2020 and the Grade 12's on the 1st of June.

Please take note that the school will close at 15:00. We also ask that students not bring their cellphones to school as we cannot take them in to put in the safe. If a learner brings a cellphone to school, they do so at their own risk and it must remain in their bags for the duration of the school day.

Our Grade 12 students will receive their reports on the first day of their return to school as it cannot yet be handed out at school at level 4. We are in the process of getting the Grade 8 - 11 reports to you as soon as possible.

We remind you that school fees are still payable and we express our sincerest gratitude to those of you who have been keeping your payments up to date. Please contact Delise Burger (dburger@bmdhs.co.za) should you have any queries.

You will be informed should there be any changes to this protocol. If you have any queries or suggestions in regard with this protocol, please forward it to Mr Donovan Dirks, who has played a major role in compiling this protocol based on circulars and information received from the DBE, WCED, MNED and teacher unions. You can reach him at ddirks@bmdhs.co.za. This document will be updated as we receive new data and instructions from the WCED and DBE as well as when the date of the arrival of the next grade is announced.

Learners with comorbidities:

- A learner who is unable to attend school due to a WCED approved comorbidity will be allowed to do remote learning via e-learning. We are awaiting the DBE and WCED to provide clarification on this matter.
- Students **without** an approved comorbidity who are absent for more than 10 school days will be automatically deregistered. We are awaiting the DBE and WCED to provide clarification on this matter.

Please complete the following survey regarding student comorbidity:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIsAAHyJhBnJmJkL1unMmwcr-EUrxn834sYzl5_Tl-Rr7BMg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Precautionary measures:

The following measures will be put in place by the school.

Before entering the school grounds:

- Any learner or staff member who suspects they may be sick (with any contagious medical condition), has a fever or has recently been exposed to a sick person should stay home. We trust that everyone understands the seriousness of the current pandemic and will adhere to this request.
- At the school, all learners, parents, staff, and external service providers must wear a mask at all times (bandanas etc will not be allowed) . These may be single-use or reusable / washable masks. Masks may only be removed when eating. Parents must all ensure that learners come to school with a mask. No learners, or anyone else, will be allowed access to the school without a mask. Each learner and staff member will be supplied with additional masks and sanitizer on their arrival. The WCED has not indicated at this stage whether a health worker will be provided to the school to do the testing.
- **Only the electric sliding gate is to be used for entry by the learners onto the school premises.** All learners must enter through this point only. Parents will not be allowed beyond the designated entry points. Each learner and staff member's temperature will be taken and noted, and their hands will be sanitized. Approved visitors will use the small gate in front of the entrance of the school.
- Any learner or staff member with a **temperature of 38°C or over will be moved to a quarantine area. If the scanner's reading result is within the normal range of body temperature (equal to or less than 37.9°C) then it is considered safe to allow access to the school.**
- These entry points will be open from 6:45 to 8:00 in the mornings.
- No hugging, kissing or handshaking is allowed; direct contact must be avoided.
- Learners who make use of outside taxi transport must have their hands sanitized in the mornings and again in the afternoons before stepping on board. The sanitizer for transport purposes must be provided by the taxi operators. Buses should also carry a reduced number of learners. We ask parents to contact their transport companies and ensure that these procedures are in place.
- We encourage parents to buy face shields for their children as an added measure of protection.
- Parents must ensure that learners have the correct stationery and books as no sharing will be allowed.
- Learners must make sure that they have their own water bottles to minimise contact with taps etc.
- In the case of rain, students will enter through the metalwork gate and queue in single file, 1.5 m apart in the E-passage from room E6 to room E3. Once screened, they will go to designated passages to ensure social-distancing is maintained. They will also be in separate passages should it rain.

After the start of the school day:

- A single entry point will be available for all visitors. All visitors must enter through this entry point, and report to the reception where they must complete a questionnaire. Visitors' temperature will be scanned and noted, and their hands will be sanitized before further access is granted. All visitors must also wear a face mask. Parents may only enter the school on invitation, for instance to collect sick children. Only deliveries of essential goods to the school will be allowed.
- There will be no assembly points for the learners in the mornings or after breaks. All learners and educators will go directly to their classes. **Any learner or person entering a classroom must sanitize their hands first. The teacher will do this.**
- Desks will be arranged so that learners sit 1.5m from each other in the classes. Large classes will be split where necessary to make this feasible. An alternative timetable will be drawn up.
- At break, learners will be kept apart from each other as much as possible. No groups larger than 5 will be allowed and masks must be worn at all times. No physical games of any sort will be allowed for the duration of this pandemic. Staff and the Matric Council will be on duty as usual to monitor the social distancing of learners.
- The tuck shop will remain closed. Parents must please ensure that learners bring enough food and water to school. We kindly request that no parents send food or anything else to learners during the course of the school day.
- After breaks, learners' and staff's hands will be sanitized again before entering the classrooms.
- No gatherings, meetings or functions will be hosted.

After school:

- No extra-murals will take place. Extra classes will be managed according to existing protocols for lessons.

- Parents are encouraged to pick up their children as soon as possible after school. They cannot congregate in groups in front of the school.
- Parents will not be allowed to wait on the school playgrounds or to enter the buildings. Children will have to be collected at the same entry point that is open in the morning.
- Classrooms and equipment will be disinfected daily.
- Any changes in the duration of the school day shall be communicated to you once we have received final gazetted instructions from the relevant authorities.

Steps to be taken if an individual has a fever.

- Any learner or staff member with a temperature of 38°C or over will be moved to a quarantine area. Parents as well as the relevant authorities will be informed and the child will need to be collected as soon as possible. If the scanner's reading result is within the normal range of body temperature (equal to or less than 37.9°C) then it is considered safe to allow access to the school.
- If a learner or staff member develops a fever during the school day, the learner or staff member will be escorted to the quarantine area. They will then be quarantined and will be sent home after the relevant authorities have been contacted.
- **Any learner or staff member who had a fever will not be allowed to return to school until a medical certificate can be provided that states that the individual is not infected with the Corona virus or any other communicable / contagious medical condition.**
- If a learner/staff member should test positive for the Coronavirus, the situation will be handled in the correct and responsible manner. All parents, staff and other stakeholders will be informed, and the necessary steps will be taken to protect the learners, staff and parent community.
- Parents must please apply similar measures at home to safeguard the school community.

General:

Students and staff must not come to school if they show any of the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- OR if they came into contact with someone who has COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

We would like to thank you for your support thus far. Let us take hands as a community to defeat this scourge to ensure that our students receive the tuition they deserve in a healthy and caring environment.

D.R. Human
Principal
19 May 2020

M. Denton
Chairperson: SGB