

# **Bosmansdam High School Action Plan and Covid-19 policy to manage the start of schooling for Grades 8 to 12 from 15 February 2021**

## **Management of Covid-19 policy**

### **TREP 2021 – ALTERNATE DAY**

*It is our intention to start the year with an alternate day programme due to the current Level 3 regulations in place.*

## **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 learners return to school. It will also indicate which steps will be taken should the school suspect that an individual may be infected with any contagious medical condition. This action plan can be updated as the need arises and is therefore subject to change.

## **1. ACTION PLAN**

The following measures will be put in place by the school to manage the return of Grade 8 to 12 learners:

**Alternate day teaching of grades to achieve the 1m social distancing rule.**

- Grade 12s will be required to attend school every day.
- In order to ensure 1m social distancing and adhere to the 50% capacity rule (we can deviate by 10% and still maintain the social distancing criteria), the following will be implemented:

☐ Grade 12 will attend Monday to Friday.

☐ Grade 8-11 will be split into a **blue group** (Surnames between A- L) and a **red group** (surnames between (M-Z).

**Blue group** will come in on days: **1,3,5,7,9**

**Red Group** will come in on days: **2,4,6,8,10**

- This will be implemented from 15 February 2021.
- Learners with approved co-morbidities will access the relevant subjects' Google classrooms and collect hard copies from the office.
- Teachers will be deployed to teach the increased classes when these classes are divided.
- Class sizes will not exceed the 1m social distancing rule.
- **The 5 register classes in each grade (Grade 8 to 11) will be divided in two:** a red group and a blue group eg. **8A1 (blue group)** and **8A2 (red group)**.
- Orientation will take place on the first day of every grade's return.

## **2. SCHOOL TIMES:**

<b>Gates open for screening</b>	06:45	
<b>School starts</b>	08:00	
<b>School finishes*</b>	14:30	Grade 8-12
*Any changes to closing times will be communicated to parents and learners..		

## **3. ORIENTATION OF LEARNERS**

- Pre-recorded videos are used to show the screening procedures and their new classroom set-up. Healthy habits / 5 golden rules will be discussed.
- The school psychologist is available to support learners.

## **4. ACADEMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME:**

- All Grade 8 learners are doing a baseline assessment in languages to determine who will need support from the beginning of 2021. This support will start immediately.
- The curriculum will be adapted to address any shortfalls. Core / foundational concepts will be the focus in Mathematics and Languages. The school will implement the revised academic programmes as instructed by the DBE/WCED.
- Intensive teaching will be done on the days the learners are at school. Working with smaller groups will ensure the educator gives the necessary intervention where needed.
- Consolidation activities will be given to learners on the alternate day spent at home. This work will be closely monitored to ensure the progress of each learner.
- Educators will use the adapted curriculum (we have not yet received this) as a guide.
- Parents will be informed of the summative assessment programme at the beginning of the year.

## **5. LEARNERS WITH COMORBIDITIES/THOSE WORKING FROM HOME:**

- Administration of this is done by Mrs Loughran and Mrs Swartz.
- Files are kept by them.
- Subject teachers make lessons available online and those who indicated that they require hard copies can pick it up from Mrs Loughran on a Monday morning.
- Learners who were granted permission to work from home last year need not apply again.
- Parents can still apply for this option.

## **6. The following are the guidelines on social distancing:**

- No hugging, kissing or handshaking; direct contact must be avoided.
- Cloth masks must be worn by learners at all times.
- No mass public events; all sports matches, practices and festivals prohibited. This will be reviewed in accordance with DBE and WCED policies.
- Extra classes should be arranged in small groups that maintain social distancing.

## **7. The following are the 5 Rules to prevent the spread of the coronavirus:**

### **1. Separate yourself physically from other people:**

- Stay away from people as much as possible.
- Stay home if unwell.

### **2. Physical distancing when around other people:**

- Keep a distance of at least 1m (2 arm lengths) from others.
- Do NOT shake hands, or hug, or fist bump, or elbow bump. Keep your distance.

### **3. Hand washing/sanitising:**

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Rub hands with alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Wash hands after touching people, surfaces and objects.

### **4. Practising good hygiene measures:**

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and then put the tissue in a bin and wash your hands immediately.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.

### **5. Using cloth face masks:**

- Use a cloth face mask to cover your nose and mouth.
- Don't touch the mask after you put it on.
- Leave the mask on all the time except when you need to eat/drink. For eating/drinking, take it off carefully by the strings and place it in a clean paper or plastic bag.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

## **8. Infrastructure and Furniture**

- Sanitize classrooms and passages prior to the start of the school day.
- Sanitize hands on entering the classroom.
- No clustering of desks in classrooms.
- Learners and educators will be screened (temperature and symptom check) daily.
- Learners or staff members that present with raised temperature will be considered for isolation and testing.

## **9. RULES FOR OPERATION:**

- Staff with comorbidities must be identified and reported to WCED.
- There should be workplace protocols in place that would include disease surveillance and prevention of the spread of infection.
- Employees and learners will be screened on a daily basis for symptoms of COVID-19, including a symptom check as well as temperature assessment.
- All learners and employees must use a cloth mask.
- The school must have sanitizers available or hand washing facilities with soap.
- Stringent social distancing measures should be implemented in the school.

## **10. Daily duties of cleaners include:**

- A thorough daily cleaning of all surfaces (e.g. floors, bathrooms, desks) with disinfectant cleaner (recommend sodium hypochlorite 0.5% (biocide sachets) or bleach mixture of 250ml of bleach to 5 litres of water).
- Surfaces that are frequently touched such as taps, door knobs at classrooms and toilets, gate handles, locks and toilet handles must be cleaned. Other frequently touched areas are in staff rooms. Items such as microwaves, kettles, fridges and photocopy machines must be cleaned frequently with 20 ml bleach per litre of water.
- Collect all the bags with possible contaminated waste in bins in classrooms and offices. Tie the bags and dispose of them properly in big refuse bags. Tie the refuse bags again.
- Wear protective gear at all times as discussed below.

## **11. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for cleaning:**

All cleaners must adhere to the 5 rules as discussed above.

Cleaners must also ensure that:

- Face masks must be worn all the time.
- They must protect their hands by washing or disinfecting frequently, or by wearing gloves (which must also be thoroughly cleaned or disposed of.)
- They must wear closed shoes.

## **12. 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 **MUST STAY AT HOME AND INFORM THE SCHOOL.**
- All persons entering the school premises 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.
- Anyone entering the school premises must wear a mask.
- No-one will be allowed into the school without a mask.
- **Only the electric sliding gate is to be used for entry by the learners.** All learners must enter through this point only and then move down towards the clubhouse where screening will take place. **Parents will not be allowed beyond the designated entry points.** Each learner and staff member's temperature will be taken, 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.**
- The entry point 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 they have their own water bottles to minimise touching of taps etc.
- The cleaning staff will use the clubhouse for meetings as their venue does not allow adequate social-distancing.
- In the case of rain, students will enter through the glass doors between the tuckshop and the library. They must queue in single file, 1m apart in front of the tuckshop under the canopy. Once screened, they will enter the building and go to designated passages to ensure social-distancing is maintained.

### **13. 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 reception where they must complete a screening 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 to 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 as far as possible from each other (at least 1m apart) in the classes. Large classes will be split where necessary to make this feasible. An alternative timetable will be drawn up.
- To ensure social distancing at change of class, the 'keep left' rule will apply with a 1.5 m distance between each learner.
- 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.
- After breaks, learners' and staff's hands will be sanitized again before entering the classrooms.
- No gatherings or functions, where the total number of attendees might exceed 50, will be hosted; the 1m social distancing rule must be adhered to.

### **14. 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.
- Learners cannot congregate in groups in front of the school.
- Parents will not be allowed to wait on the school playground or to enter the buildings.

- Learners will have to be collected at the same entry point that is open in the morning.
- Classrooms and equipment will be disinfected daily and classes will be deep cleaned weekly.

## **15. Movement of learners.**

1. **Only the electric sliding gate is to be used for screening and entry of learners to the premises. Staff will be screened in front of the main entrance.**
2. Staff will be on duty from 6:45 to 8:00 at the front gate.
3. Learners who are late will enter through the front entrance for screening.
4. Hands will be sanitised when entering the school.
5. Anyone entering the school premises must wear a mask.
6. Staff will take the learner's temperature first. Any learner with a **temperature of 38°C or over will be moved to Time-out for quarantine. 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 location. Learners with a temperature range of 37.7°C to 37.9°C will be flagged, parents will be informed to monitor and a possible 3 day quarantine period issued as a precautionary measure.**
7. After being screened, learners must move to the back of the school building and wait for the bell to ring before moving to their respective classes.
8. A sanitizing station is to be placed outside the front door. Any person who leaves the school building must sanitise before re-entry. All visitors during school hours must use the front/main entrance, sanitize and complete the screening questionnaire. They MUST indicate contact number upon entering the premises.
9. All other entrances/exits to be locked at all times.
10. To ensure social distancing, learners must walk 1.5m away from one another on the left hand side of the passage.

## **16. Breaks:**

1. Masks must be worn at all times. It may be removed for eating.
2. No touching, hugging or playing of any games allowed.
3. No groups of more than 5; maintain 1m social distancing.
4. Teachers will sanitise learner's hands on re-entry to class.
5. Breaks will be at normal times.

## **17. Classrooms:**

1. Any learner or person entering a classroom must sanitize their hands.
2. All classes must be sanitised at the end of the school day.
3. Desks must be spaced out like it would be for exams (as far as possible).
4. NO SHARING OF DESKS.
5. Movement of learners in class to be strictly limited.
6. 1m social distancing must be and will be adhered to in all classrooms.

## **18. Bathrooms:**

1. All bathrooms used must be equipped with soap and sanitizer (matric bathrooms at the back of the school to be used).
2. All bathrooms must be open at all times to facilitate hand washing.
3. Social distancing rules apply.
4. No more than 5 learners in a bathroom at any given time. The Matric Council will monitor.

## **19. Teachers:**

1. Enter the school building through the front/main entrance.
2. Temperatures will be taken. A staff member with a **temperature of 38°C or over will be moved to Time-out for quarantine. 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 location.**
3. Staff must have a mask/face shield on at all times.
4. Teachers who have difficulty projecting their voice through the mask may remove the mask when speaking, but should wear a face shield/visor and must keep a physical distance from learners.
5. Sanitise hands when entering any other venue in the school.
6. Sanitise learners' hands when they enter their class.
7. Sanitise desks between lessons.

## **20. Responsibilities:**

This shall apply to all persons and anyone visiting an operating site and/or building. No staff shall be exempt from testing procedures.

- Every employee, contractor and visitor must report any case of suspected COVID-19 if they have had close contact with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case.
- **Close contact is defined as: being within approximately 1m of a person confirmed as having a positive case of COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more without having a mask on.**
- Close contact can occur while:
  - Caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a room/health care waiting area
  - Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 positive case e.g. being coughed on, etc.
  - Staff that have any symptoms related to the virus, **a temperature of 38°C or over**, fever, dry cough, sore throat or respiratory issues shall self-isolate and not come to the workplace
- A person can be contagious before the symptoms show up as well as after symptoms are present.
- They shall inform the Principal and Department of Health for advice.
- All learners and staff shall follow fundamental controls e.g. regular handwashing, no physical contact and follow the 1m physical distance (social distancing) rule to minimize close contact.
- If any symptoms develop, staff must self-isolate.

## **21. 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. 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. Parents as well as the relevant authorities will be informed and the child will need to be collected as soon as possible.
- If a learner develops a fever during the school day, the learner will be escorted to the quarantine area. If a staff member develops a fever, they will be quarantined and will be sent home after the relevant authorities have been contacted.
- **Any learner / 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 Coronavirus 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.

## **22. General Health & Hygiene**

- Clean lockers, screens, keyboards, mouse, phone, chairs and arm rests before use.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (i.e. lockers, screens, keyboards, mouse, chair arms, common areas) by using detergents or disinfectant cleaning sprays or wipes .
- Provision and regular use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers.
- Maintain at least 1.5m distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Open windows if possible.
- Avoid organising gatherings in the office unless it is critical business.
- 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
- A learner who is unable to attend school due to a WCED approved comorbidity will be allowed to do remote learning via e-learning.

## **23. STAFFING:**

Educators at school (including principal)	33
Educators at home	1
Assistants	1(TBC)
Admin staff	11
Site Staff	7

Mark Denton (Chairperson of SGB)

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27 January 2021