



MARYVALE COLLEGE

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High School

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POLICY: INFECTIOUS & COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

1. PURPOSE OF THE INFECTIOUS & COMMUNICABLE DISEASES POLICY

The purpose of the policy is for the protection of Health and Safety of staff members, learners, the community at large and any other person who may be at the school at any given time. The policy provides health and safety guidelines for all persons on the premises and in the classroom, and outlines clear and actionable steps to be taken for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of infectious and/or communicable diseases at Maryvale College.

The Head of Maryvale College, in accordance with the guidelines and/or steps communicated by the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, has the authority to implement the steps below to ensure the health and safety of all relevant parties.

It is the intention of Maryvale College to be vigilant in relation to the presence of any infectious disease and to ensure that the risk of infection to all staff, pupils, stakeholders, and the school community is kept to a minimum by using the standard precautions and to ensure that staff, pupils, stakeholders, parents/guardians and the school community are aware of these precautions.

In drafting this policy Maryvale College complies with the provisions of:

- The National Health Act 61 of 2003
- The Disaster Management Act 61 of 2002
- The State of Emergency Act 64 of 1997

2. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The School Management makes funds available for the implementation of the Infectious & Communicable Diseases Policy at the School. The annual school budget will from this point forward reflect the amount to be spent annually on the control of Infectious & Communicable Diseases as part of the Health and Safety measures to be implemented at the school. The budget will be approved by the parents at the AGM. The Health and Safety sub-committee must constantly monitor the implementation of the Infectious & Communicable Disease Policy at the school.

3. STANDARD PRECAUTIONS OF INFECTION CONTROL

To fight against any infection, high standards of general cleanliness must be observed at all times, dust kept to a minimum and areas of use thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis.

Hand hygiene is widely acknowledged to be one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of disease. Staff are to continuously remind the pupils of the importance of hand hygiene and the method to use which is the most effective technique to use when washing hands.

Hand washing facilities are provided for all pupils and staff:

- Hand basins, running water, liquid soap dispensers and hand drying facilities (of a disposable nature) are provided in all toilets, change rooms, kitchens and laboratories.
- Closed bins, for the disposal of any paper towels are provided in all toilets, change rooms, kitchens and laboratories.
- Hand washing facilities are maintained in a good condition and supplies of paper towels and soap are refilled regularly.
- Cleaning staff will frequently check soap dispensers which will be refilled when necessary.
- Hand basins of an appropriate height are available for staff and pupils of all ages.

4. PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The Head of Maryvale College, in accordance with the guidelines and/or steps communicated by the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, has the authority to implement the following at Maryvale College when deemed necessary:

4.1 USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

4.1 Masks

As deemed necessary by the Head of the College, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or relevant Health Authority, all pupils and staff at Maryvale College may be required to wear protective masks when on campus. In the event that the aforementioned is required:

4.1.1 The face mask will be deemed a compulsory uniform item for pupils/staff for the duration of the period specified by the Head of the College, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or relevant Health Authority.

4.1.2 Pupils/Staff failing to wear the correct mask, as authorized by Maryvale College will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct pertaining to uniform.

4.1.3 Maryvale College will supply face masks to staff and pupils.

4.2 BODY TEMPERATUE ANALYSIS

4.2.1 All persons wanting to gain access to any campus of Maryvale College may, as deemed necessary by the Head of the College-or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority , be required to undertake a body temperature analysis prior to being granted access to any school facility.

4.2.2 Compulsory body temperature analysis will be conducted at all entry points to the facilities at Maryvale College.

4.2.3 Body temperature analysis will be conducted using non-contact infra-red thermometers.

4.2.4 Persons with a body temperature of 38°C or above will not be granted access to any facility at Maryvale College.

4.3 SANITISING EQUIPMENT

4.3.1 All persons wanting to gain access to any facility at Maryvale College may, as deemed necessary by the Head of the College –or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, be required to sanitize their hands using an alcohol-based liquid provided by Maryvale College.

4.3.2 In addition, pupils and staff are required to sanitize their hands upon entry/exit of all classrooms/toilets/offices/venues.

4.4 QUARANTINE PERIODS

4.4.1 Staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder who contract an infectious and/or communicable disease- or who come into contact with persons infected with an infectious and/or communicable diseases, are required to inform the Head of Maryvale College of such so that appropriate action can be taken to address the needs of the person and to ensure the safety and welfare of all other members of the school community.

4.4.2 As deemed necessary by the Head of College, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, pupils/staff who are infected with an infectious and/or communicable disease- or who have been in contact with person infected with an infectious and/or communicable disease, may be required to quarantine from Maryvale College for a specified period as deemed necessary by the Head of the College- or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority.

4.4.3 During the above mentioned quarantine period, the pupil/parent/staff member will not be granted access to any facility at Maryvale College.

4.4.4 The policy applying to absent pupils will be implemented to ensure all work/homework is provided for the pupil in quarantine.

4.5 PERSONS DEVELOPING SYMPTOMS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

4.5.1 Any pupil, staff member or other person who develops symptoms and/or has a temperature spike whilst on the school property will be isolated in a specifically designated area of the school.

4.5.1.1 A staff member will be required to leave the school property at their earliest convenience.

4.5.1.2 Parents of such pupils will be required to collect their child immediately so that the child is assessed by a health professional.

4.5.1.3 In all cases the relevant Health Authorities will be notified.

4.6 SOCIAL DISTANCING

4.6.1 As deemed necessary by the Head of the College, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, all pupils, parents and staff of Maryvale College may be required to observe social distancing which may include, but is not limited to:

4.6.1.1 Staggering the beginning and end of the school day.

4.6.1.2 Staggering the breaks during the school day.

4.6.1.3 Cancellation of assemblies, extra- mural activities, sports/cultural events and other events that create crowded conditions.

4.6.1.4 Pupils' desks are to be placed a minimum of 1 metre apart.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY

Pupils, parents and staff have a legal right to confidentiality regarding their medical details. This confidentiality must never be breached by school personnel, except to healthcare professionals on a "need to know" basis. School staff should be aware that if they implement standard precautions at all times there should be no need to disclose confidential information or sensitive diagnoses. All pupils, parents and staff have a right to be treated equally, without prejudice or discrimination.

This policy was adopted by the School Management on

This policy has been made available to school personnel and is readily accessible to parents and learners on request.

This policy will be reviewed and updated at least once every year.

Signed _____
School Management

Date: _____

Signed _____
Principal

Date: _____

Signed _____
Educator Representative

Date: _____