



# MARYVALE COLLEGE

P.O. Box 51698, Raedene, Johannesburg, 2124

## High School

10 St Mary's Road, Maryvale, Johannesburg, 2192  
Telephone (011) 640 3061, (011) 640 3069, Fax (011) 640 7352

## Pre-Primary and Primary School

Cnr Louis Botha Ave & Cheltondale Rd, Orchards, Johannesburg, 2192  
Telephone (011) 485 1210, (011) 640 1120, Fax (011) 086 457 1441

## COVID-19 STIGMATISATION POLICY

### VISION OF OUR SCHOOL

We wish to make all learners and staff aware of COVID-19 and how to prevent its spread and facilitating personal safety during outbreaks.

### BACKGROUND

COVID-19 is highly contagious, it is spread by fluid droplets carrying the COVID-19 virus and is being transmitted from one person to another. Any time a person coughs, sneezes or shouts, droplets containing virus particles are released into the air and fall onto surfaces. People touching their eyes, nose or mouth after having touched infected surfaces may become infected.

The virus can survive in the air for a short time, so it can be inhaled directly from droplets in the air. It can also survive on hard surfaces for up to nine days if not removed by regular cleaning. All surfaces such as books, stationery, door handles, desks, etc. need regular sanitizing.

Because the incubation period is approximately one week, the disease can be spread by people who are asymptomatic (showing no signs). COVID-19 patients remain infectious during their illness and for a short time after recovery. There is currently no vaccine, however symptoms can be treated.

### DEFINITION

- a) Social distancing  
Maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 metres between people.
- b) Sanitizing  
Regular washing of hands with water and soap or alcohol based sanitizer.  
Regular cleaning of surfaces with anti-bacterial disinfectant.
- c) Masks  
2 or 3 layered mask covering nose and mouth to remain in place for the duration of the school day.

### NON DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY

- a) No learner or educator with COVID-19 may be discriminated against directly or indirectly. Although infected persons are required to be isolated and kept away from school for 14 days or until they test negative, once the person has recovered and returns to school, no discrimination of any kind is allowed.
- b) Educators and pupils must be trained to support people with COVID-19 whilst observing COVID-19 safety measures.

- c) Infection and control measures and adaptations will be universally applied throughout the school.
- d)

## **ATTENDANCE/DISCLOSURE**

People infected with COVID-19 are not allowed on the school property and must present a negative test before being allowed back onto the property.

Should a learner or staff member be required to self-quarantine or recover, support will be provided through telephone calls and messages of support.

Learners with infectious illness must be kept away from school to protect all other members, especially those whose immune system may be impaired by underlying conditions.

A learner or staff members' absence will be monitored and the necessary procedures will be followed to ensure the education of the learner is not compromised.

## **EDUCATION**

Learners and staff will receive appropriate education about COVID-19.

Education regarding COVID-19 will be integrated into the curriculum and presented by the class/subject teacher.

Learners and staff will be offered psychological support in dealing with anxiety, distress, depression related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learners, families and staff will be offered psychological support to help cope with a death/deaths of family members, colleagues or classmates.

## **SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**

There are six golden rules to be observed at all times.

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least twenty seconds. If soap and water are not available use an alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
2. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, even if you are wearing gloves.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay at home when you are sick.
5. Cover any cough or sneeze with a flexed elbow or tissue. Dispose of the tissue in a bin with a lid.
6. Regularly clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are frequently touched.

During a COVID-19 outbreak, in accordance with Health Department and Government Regulations, extra measures such as measuring of temperature before entering the school, limiting class sizes to no more than 20 pupils, etc. will be taken. (Please refer to Infectious & Communicable disease policy)

This policy was adopted by the School Management on

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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 every year.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
School Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Educator Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by Mrs Kirsten Smith 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020