



# COVID-19: Return to School Q & A

## 1. Health and Safety

### 1.1. What has the school done to ensure that all learners/staff are safe at school with regard to the infrastructure?

- Entire school was initially **deep cleaned, sanitised and decontaminated**. Deep cleaning and fogging will continue as per the need.
- The **classrooms and desks** are sanitised in the morning, after break and at the end of the school day. All classrooms have been de-cluttered.
- The **bathrooms** are sanitised and cleaned three times a day and they are monitored to ensure that it is hygienic and safe for use at all times.
- **Out of bounds** areas are cordoned off.
- Clearly **visible signage** throughout the school.
- All staff and learners sanitise when they enter or exit a classroom, in addition to washing hands with soap and water.
- All staff common areas as well as offices are sanitised every day.

### 1.2. What has the school done to ensure that physical distancing is being practised?

- There are clearly demarcated physical distancing lines/block/circles in various areas of the school that will enable all staff and learners to maintain distancing.
- Classrooms are also clearly marked with desks placed more than 1.5m apart.
- The adoption of the blended teaching approach (onsite and online learning) with a weekly rotation has enabled the school to divide the class into two groups.
- Visible signage is also in place.
- The playground has also clearly demarcated spots for learners to be reminded of physical distancing.
- Staff members are continuously monitoring all movement to ensure that physical distancing is adhered to.
- Bathroom facilities are designated per grade and monitoring of bathroom visits are done by the teachers.

### 1.3. Are PPEs provided for the learners and staff?

- All staff and learners are supplied with two cloth masks. We do encourage everyone to have more than two for their own personal safety.
- Staff members also have face shields.
- All bathrooms have a soap dispenser, and this is regularly filled up.
- Whilst the school has hand sanitisers in strategic places, it is recommended that staff and learners also carry their own for their personal safety.

1.4.	Entrance and Departure: Where can learners be dropped off and picked up?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The school will use only one entrance and exit – <b>Gate 5</b> (the gate outside the hall)</li> <li>➤ There will be a <b>staggered start and end</b> to the school day to alleviate congestion.</li> <li>➤ There are <b>strict</b> entrance and exit processes to follow with regard to controlling of people entering the property, screening and sanitisation.</li> <li>➤ Parents are expected to be punctual when dropping off and picking up learners to avoid any traffic congestion.</li> </ul>	
1.5.	Screening and Sanitising: What is being done to ensure that all staff and learners do not enter school property if they are sick?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All staff and learners (and visitors by arrangement) have to undergo a strict entrance process: Temperature check/Sanitise at the gate → Proceed to answering the Screening Questionnaire → Sanitise → Designated area</li> <li>➤ Temperature checks for learners are done three times a day – morning, after break and before they leave school.</li> <li>➤ Temperature checks for staff are done twice a day.</li> </ul>	
1.6.	What happens if someone has a high temperature at the gate?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They (visitor/staff/learner) are not allowed to enter and will be asked to kindly return home and visit the doctor to check on their health status as it may just be the flu and not the COVID virus. If they have been tested positive for the virus, they need to declare it to the school.</li> <li>➤ If the parents have left already, the learner will be accommodated in the identified isolation room. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school will wait for a few minutes before the temperature is checked again and the screening questionnaire is done to ascertain any other symptoms. If the temperature returns to normal and the screening shows no cause for concern, then the learner may proceed to the classroom.</li> <li>• If the high temperature persists and the screening is showing cause for concern, then the learner will remain in the isolation area with staff personnel who will make them feel comfortable and reassure them until the parent arrives. The parent will be informed to take the learner to the doctor immediately.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Testing a person for the COVID virus is largely dependent on the answers to the screening questions. The doctor will then advise accordingly.</li> </ul>	

**1.7. Which medical facility do we go to if we suspect our child has the virus?**

The closest facilities to the school are as follows:

- Sandton Medi Clinic (private) - 011 709 2000
- NHC Medical Centre (private) - 011 700 6666
- Charlotte Maxeke Hospital (public) – 011 488 4911

**1.8. What happens if a learner falls ill during the school day?**

- If the symptoms are COVID related, then the learner will be placed in the isolation room under the watchful eye of staff personnel whilst the parents are called. There will be a follow up by the school to ascertain the health status of the child.
- If the symptoms are not COVID related, the learners will report to the sick bay at school and the situation assessed. The parent will be called to pick up the learner.
- No child or staff member that is sick is allowed to remain on the school premises.

**1.9. What is the process if a member of staff or learner has the virus?**

- The learner/staff member will have to remain in isolation or as per the medical instruction. They will only be allowed to return to school if they receive a negative report. Proof must be presented to the school.
- With regard to the rest of the school, as per the guidelines, the school has to inform the Education and Health Department and await the instructions regarding the closure of a group or entire school. This will be done after a full assessment of the situation has been undertaken. Possible scenarios would be quarantining of the respective class/phase/group or closure of the school-depending on the tracking/tracing. The Principal cannot close the school, only the Education Department in conjunction with the Health Department can close a school.
- All information pertaining to the closure will be communicated to all stakeholders. The re-opening will depend on the assessment of the risk and the deep cleaning and sanitisation of the school. Normally the turnaround time is a two-week/14 day period of quarantine/isolation.
- In the interest of the health and safety of all staff and learners, there will be a very transparent process involved in informing all stake holders should there be a cause for concern.
- The monitoring/tracking of movement will be crucial in order to contain the virus as much as possible therefore it is essential for all to inform the school should there be a positive result.
- The school through its amended Discipline Policy endeavours to protect all its staff and learners from being stigmatised in any way if they are tested positive for the virus. It will adopt a zero tolerance for anyone found guilty of breaching this code.

1.10.	What if a parent of a learner or a staff member's spouse tested positive? This will also apply to family members who have tested positive and have been in contact with the learner or staff member.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The school should be informed immediately of this.</li> <li>➤ The staff member/learner must be tested if they are displaying any symptoms and remain quarantined until they receive the results.</li> <li>➤ If the results are negative, then the staff /learner can return to school.</li> <li>➤ If the results are positive, then the tracking of movement process will occur to establish who else is at risk. (Education and Health Department intervention)</li> <li>➤ All those at risk will be asked to remain in quarantine at their homes until such time they are tested. The school will be advised if they are to close or not.</li> </ul>
1.11.	What is the difference between Isolation and Quarantine with regard to COVID-19?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Quarantine: For people\groups who are exposed to the virus but don't present with any symptoms. It keeps them away from others, so they don't knowingly infect anyone.</li> <li>➤ Isolation: It serves the same purpose as quarantine, but it is reserved for people who are already infected. It keeps infected people away from healthy people to prevent the virus from spreading.</li> </ul>
1.12.	You may be at risk if you are in "close contact" with a person who has tested positive. What is meant by "close contact"?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is defined as being <b><u>within 2 metres</u></b> of someone with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time. It includes if you are living with, visiting or sharing a room or healthcare waiting area with someone who has COVID-19. Also includes if you have been coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the virus.</li> </ul>

## 2. Academic Matters

### 2.1. “Blended teaching approach” explained.

- This approach combines the online and onsite method of teaching.
- Bryandale has divided each class into two groups (red and blue).
- These groups will rotate with a week of onsite and a week of online learning.

### 2.2. What happens if a learner has a co-morbidity and the parent wishes to keep the learner at home?

- The learner may remain at home but must be able to continue with online lessons.
- A medical letter/certificate must be produced to verify the co-morbidity. This must be sent to the class teacher.

### 2.3. What happens if a learner does not have a co-morbidity but the parent wishes to keep the learner at home?

- The parent needs to send through a letter detailing the reasons for the learner being kept at home.
- The learner may stay at home provided that they are engaging in online lessons.

### 2.4. What happens to a learner who chooses to remain at home and does not have a co-morbidity and cannot engage in online lessons.

- The learner has no choice but to attend school.
- The parent has a choice to de-register the learner from Bryandale and apply for home schooling.

### 2.5. What will happen if a learner can't be kept at home for the blended approach and has to be in school everyday?

- Provisions will be made by the school to accommodate the learner.
- They will still be categorised into a group (blue or red) for administrative purposes.

### 2.6. Will there be any revision of the lessons covered during lockdown?

- If the content is included in the trimmed curriculum, then revision of the content will be in the re-teaching of the lesson itself.

### 2.7. Will the learner be at a disadvantage during their online week at home?

	➤ In all lessons taught each week, there will be a recap of prior knowledge before a new lesson is presented.
2.8.	Must the children bring all their lockdown work to school?
	➤ The subject teacher will inform all learners accordingly of what they need to bring to school.
2.9.	Please explain how the curriculum will be covered by onsite and online lessons.
	Lessons will be covered via three different formats on MS TEAMS so that the online learners receive the same information as the onsite learners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lessons will have a <b>voice-over</b> with all instructions/explanations given by the teacher. The teacher will have a pre-recorded welcome to the lesson.</li> <li>➤ Lessons will be a <b>recording of a “live” version</b>.</li> <li>➤ Lessons will be <b>streamed live</b>. (the learners will be informed of which lessons are streamed live- they would have to follow the class’s timetable to benefit from this. If learners cannot stream live, the teacher will place a recording of the lesson on MS Teams for the learner to watch at a later stage.</li> <li>➤ The onsite learners will have access to the same lessons but they will have the benefit of the teacher present in class who will be the main resource person.</li> </ul>
2.10.	If I keep my child at home, how will they be assessed?
	➤ All assessments must be written at school. Provisions will be made for all learners to write their assessments at school. The teacher will inform parents of the assessment days in due time for arrangements to be made to bring the learner to school.
2.11.	Am I allowed to change my options at a later stage?
	➤ Yes. You can change your options but you need to please inform the school of your intentions.
2.12.	How are the blue and red groups decided?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This is decided alphabetically with minor changes to ensure an even distribution of boys and girls per group.</li> <li>➤ Siblings and learners who live in the same household are placed in the same group.</li> </ul>
2.13.	Will there be tests and exams?
	➤ No exams in Term 2

- There will be an assessment programme in Term 3. This will be sent out to learners and parents.
- There will be exams scheduled in Term 4 for Grade 4 to 7 learners. FP learners will write formal assessments. Dates still to be decided upon.

**2.14. Do I have to register my child in a home school programme if I do not want them to physically be at school?**

- If your child is engaging with online lessons at home via Bryandale and comes to school to write the tests, then there is no need to register with a home-school programme.
- If the learner is kept at home and does not participate in any online activities nor writes any tests then that learner will be deemed de-registered from the school and will not receive a report at the end of the year. Parents will need to register their child in a home-school programme.
- You will be notified if the department indicates otherwise.

### 3. Concerns

**3.1. Does my child have to wear a mask all the time?**

- The wearing of a mask is law at the moment.
- We do understand that it is quite uncomfortable wearing a mask at all times. The teacher will make provisions for any learner who needs to go outside of the class and have a few moments without the mask.
- During feeding time, learners will be allowed to remove their masks in order to eat. This will be supervised closely.

**3.2. Can my child wear a shield only?**

- No. They will have to wear a mask instead of a shield at school.
- Alternatively, a learner can wear a mask and a shield if a parent so desires.

**3.3. Why is it necessary for children to wear a mask?**

- Whilst the debate about children being less susceptible to COVID-19 continues, research does indicate that they can be carriers of the virus whilst showing no signs of it (asymptomatic). The school environment encompasses staff members who will be at risk if they are infected. The child may also, unintentionally, infect people at home. It is necessary for children to wear the mask because it is law.

#### 3.4. Why hasn't the school considered platooning as an alternative?

- The school had considered various options before the blended approach was finally decided upon. It proved to be the best alternative with regard to safety first and ensuring the sanitisation process was not impacted.

#### 3.5. Would there be Aftercare?

- With Level 3 Lockdown, there is no provision as yet for Aftercare at a public school.

#### 3.6. Will teachers provide support for the online lessons?

- Due to the fact that the teachers will be engaged actively in class, questions that the online learner has must be communicated with the teacher via Teams so that the teacher can attend to the queries when time permits at the end of the day.

#### 3.7. If my child has a co-morbidity and I wish to keep my child at home, do I need a letter from the doctor?

- Yes, a letter from the doctor is recommended for record purposes.

#### 3.8. Will there be any extra lessons provided?

- There are no extra lessons provided during this time.
- It is important to note that due to the smaller numbers in the classroom as a result of the blended approach, the teachers will have the time to engage with learners who need more support in the class.

#### 3.9. How is the break going to be?

- Break will be staggered in order to minimise the number of learners on the field.
- Teachers will be on duty.
- Music will be played to create a 'fun' atmosphere despite the circumstances.

- Once the learners have eaten their sandwiches, they will learn new movements to a song each day so eventually they will be able to have a choreographed version of movements to a song.
- For those learners who prefer to, sitting on the stands is an option as well.

### 3.10. How will the toilet visits be monitored?

- Specific bathrooms are allocated to a grade.
- Visits to the bathroom will be monitored by the Grade in order to minimise the number of learners in the bathroom at any given time.

### 3.11. Will there be Active Ed lessons?

- Whilst sport is restricted by the Education Department, outdoor exposure and the sun is still necessary for all children. There will be Active Ed lessons where the key focus areas will be static movements that involve the core and enhance the learners' flexibility.
- Care will be taken to ensure safe physical distancing.
- Learners will have their masks on and if any learner is uncomfortable then provisions would be made for them to perform their routine further away from the group without a mask.

# **South African COVID 19 HOTLINE**

# **08000 29999**

**If you present with symptoms of Corona Virus, please call the official COVID 19 HOTLINE before going to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. By calling the hotline, someone will be sent to test you where you are, which will limit the spread of the virus.**



**health**

Department:  
Health  
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# COVID - 19 PANDEMIC CALL CENTRES AND HOTLINES



Coronavirus Hotline: <b>0800 029 999</b>	National Crisis Line: <b>0861 322 322</b>	South African Police Service: <b>08600 10111</b>	Reporting undue price increases: <b>0800 141 880</b>	Child Line: <b>0800 055 555</b>	Department of Home Affairs: <b>0800 601 190</b>
Persons with Disabilities: SMS 'help' to <b>31531</b>	Support to SMMEs in distress: <b>0860 663 7867</b>	AIDS Helpline: <b>0800 012 322</b>	Department of Trade and Industry: <b>080 000 6543</b>	Suicide Helpline: <b>0800 567 567</b> OR <b>0800 456 789</b>	Department of Water and Sanitation: <b>0800 200 200</b>
GB VF - Related service complaints: <b>0800 333 177</b>	PostBank Call Centre: <b>0800 53 54 55</b>	Gender-based Violence Command centre: <b>0800 428 428 OR *120*7867# (free)</b>	UIF Call Centre: <b>0800 030 007</b>	Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit: <b>0800 150 150</b>	Department of Tourism: <b>0860 868 747</b>
National Institute for Communicable Diseases: <b>0800 029 999</b>	Women Abuse Helpline: <b>0800 150 150</b>	National Human Trafficking Helpline: <b>0800 222 777</b>	SASSA Call Centre: <b>0800 60 10 11</b>	Presidential Hotline: <b>17737</b>	<b>WE ARE HERE TO HELP</b>

**WHATSAPP SUPPORT**  
**0600 123 456**  
**EMERGENCY NUMBER**  
**0800 029 999**  
**sacoronavirus.co.za**

