

# A COVID-19 Guide for Parents and Learners

## Must my child wear a mask?

COVID-19 regulations stipulate that a person leaving their home shall wear a mask. It is compulsory to wear a mask at school. Wearing a mask is not comfortable; for that reason, the appeal is to parents to have their children practise wearing a mask for extended periods at home. Knowing what to do and what is unacceptable is vital.



## When must my child stay at home?

Every learner should be kept at home when he/she presents any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

Typical Covid-19 Symptoms
Fever
Cough
Bloodshot or red eyes
Difficulty in breathing
Body pain
Physical weakness and fatigue
Loss of taste or smell
Nausea
Vomiting

## What happens when the learner arrives at school?

- A medical screening of the learner will take place. This means:
  - Taking the temperature of the learner with an appropriate instrument;
  - Completing a questionnaire that may include the symptoms the learner could be presenting.
- Supervision and monitoring of physical distancing of at least one-and-a-half metres between learners.

## What happens when a learner presents typical Covid-19 symptoms?

- The learner will be isolated on the school premises and the parent / guardian will be required to collect the learner.
- Should the learner be at school when he / she presents Covid19 symptoms, he / she will be isolated to prevent any danger to any other learners or to members of staff.
- The parents / guardians of the learner will immediately be informed of the situation.
- The school will inform the appropriate health official or contact the COVID help line at 0800-02-9999.
- The parent / guardian will be issued with a letter stating the child's symptoms for medical referral.

## Is taking the temperature compulsory?

The Constitution guarantees all people the right to privacy and bodily integrity. Section 36 of the Constitution allows for the limitation of these rights as long as the limitation is reasonable and legitimate.

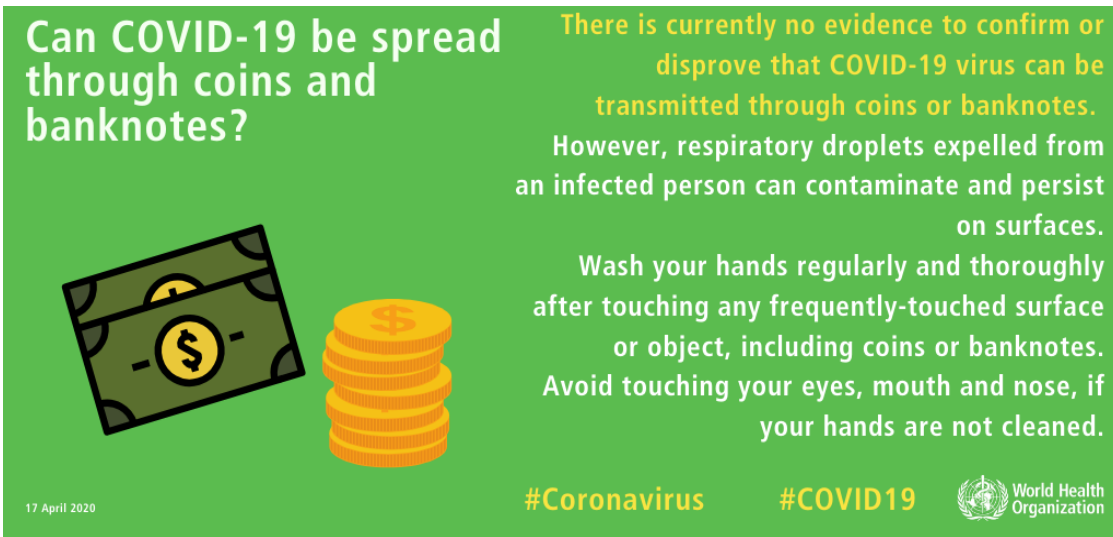
There can be no doubt that Covid-19 is exceptionally contagious. This highly contagious nature and the global mortality rate necessitate a limitation of the rights to privacy and bodily integrity. The limitation allows Health and Safety measures and schools' risk management measures. These measures may involve the taking of learners' temperatures.

There can be no reasonable objection to the taking of temperatures as long as the process is not unnecessarily intrusive. Any person refusing to allow his / her temperature to be taken may legitimately be refused access to the school premises.

## What about the tuck shop?

Tuck Shops may be opened as long as they comply with the regulations.

## What about the use of cash at the tuck shop and in the school?



**Can COVID-19 be spread through coins and banknotes?**

There is currently no evidence to confirm or disprove that COVID-19 virus can be transmitted through coins or banknotes. However, respiratory droplets expelled from an infected person can contaminate and persist on surfaces.

Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly after touching any frequently-touched surface or object, including coins or banknotes. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose, if your hands are not cleaned.

17 April 2020

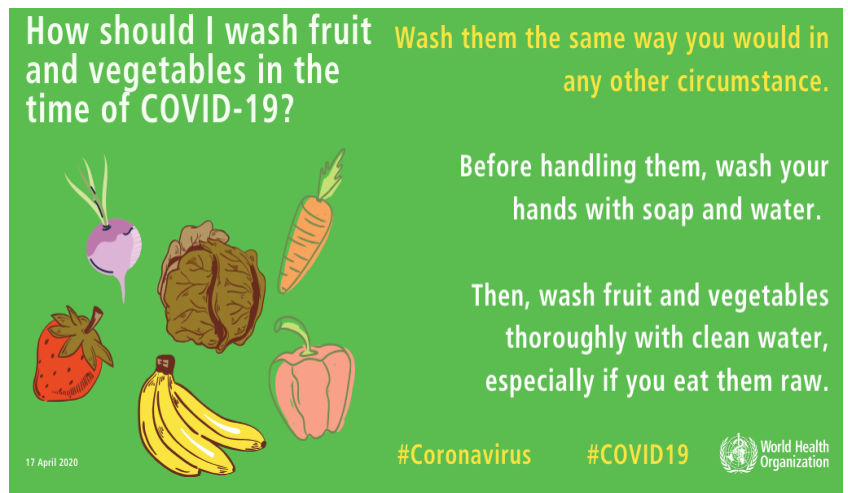
#Coronavirus #COVID19

World Health Organization

## Is my child allowed to take lunch to school?

The United States' Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and our own government agree that at this stage there is no proof of Covid-19 being spread in food or food packaging. It is well known that several illnesses and viruses can be spread in foodstuff but Covid-19 is not one of them.

It is important to note that learners must maintain social distancing and that food should not be shared if the hands have not been sanitised or properly washed. The person preparing the learner's packed lunch should be meticulous to ensure that his or her hands are properly sanitised by thorough washing with soap or by a hand sanitiser. Raw and uncooked foodstuff such as fruit should be carefully washed in clean running water.



## May I refuse to send my child back to school?

On 19 May 2020, the Minister of Basic Education announced that Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners would return to school on 1 June. This has since been amended to Monday, 8 June 2020.

Children in the age group 7 to 15 years are subject to compulsory schooling. Section 3 of the SA Schools Act imposes the responsibility on parents to ensure that their children attend school. Schools are required to do all in their power to ensure a safe environment for the learners but schools are under no obligation to support the education of learners who remain at home when schools have re-opened unless the learner suffers from an underlying health condition that may increase the risk of infection with the Covid-19 virus. In that case it is better that the learner remains at home. Learners requiring distance learning arrangements will have to produce medical certificates in support of that request.

## What about Home Schooling?

The Schools Act stipulates in Section 51 that a parent may apply to the Head of Department of the Provincial Department of Education to be allowed to perform home schooling. Upon receipt of permission to conduct home schooling, the learner will no longer be regarded as a learner at a public school. The learner must be registered with a curriculum service provider that can certify the learner for the specific Grade.

Schools may not refuse a parent the right to withdraw a learner from the school. Unless the regulations of the provincial department of education indicate that it must, the school is under no obligation to support the education of the learner who has opted for home schooling.

Learners who were not registered for home schooling will have no proof of the year's academic work and receive no formal certificate. If a learner wishes to return to a public school for the following year, it will be regarded as a new application subject to the availability of spaces at the school, and its Admission Policy. The school has the right to conduct an assessment of the learner's knowledge and skills to determine the specific Grade most appropriate for the learner. It should not be assumed that the learner will progress to the next Grade with his/her age cohort (peers).

Parents who wish to gain more information about home schooling should consult the following document: Government Gazette No. 42037 – 16 November 2018 (Government Notice, Department of Basic Education, No. 1239, 16 November 2018).

## ARRANGEMENTS THAT THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT



The classroom and school premises are set up to allow for a distancing norm of 1.5m at all times.



All visitors, staff members and learners are required to wear a mask.



Every staff member and learner will have access to hand sanitisers, soap and clean water for washing their hands.



Staff and learners will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap regularly.



Parents will receive ongoing advice regarding new protocols and arrangements that must be implemented.



The school premises will be cleaned and sanitised regularly.



Relevant protocols will be implemented if staff members or learners have Covid-19 symptoms.

### A Learners' Guide to Returning

#### I can do the following before returning to school:

1. Make sure you have a mask that fits properly. (It must completely cover your mouth and nose.)
2. Practise correctly putting on and removing your mask at home. (Touch only the elastic bands or strings but do not touch the mask itself on the inside.)
3. Practise proper hygiene at home. (Wash the hands properly and correctly. Cough and sneeze into the inside of your elbow.)
4. Practise social distancing of 1.5 m . (Allow no physical contact such as hugs.)
5. Eat a healthy diet and maintain good sleeping habits.

#### How should I wash my hands? (Images: [www.schooldiva.co.za](http://www.schooldiva.co.za))



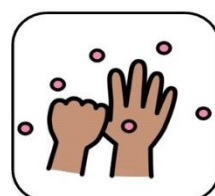
Wet your hands



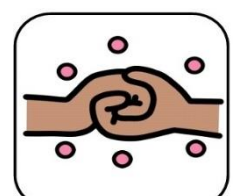
Use soap



Wash the palms and top



Wash your thumbs



Wash your nails



Wash your fingers



Rinse your hands



Dry your hands and dispose of the paper towel



Wash your hands for 20 seconds



## AM I COUGHING/SNEEZING IN THE RIGHT MANNER?



Cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow.


Cough or sneeze into a paper tissue. Dispose of the paper tissue immediately.

## Emotional wellbeing

Please speak to your teacher if you are feeling sad or down.

## Procedure at the school gate

 Arrive at school already wearing your mask.

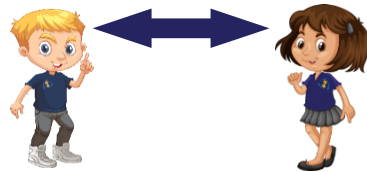
 Report to the gate.



 Hands, shoes and bookbag are sanitised.



 Maintain social distancing of 1.5 m at all times.



 Register and questions are completed.



 Temperature gets measured.



## QUESTIONS

### Do you have any of the following symptoms?

Temperature  $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$

Dry cough

Shortness of breath

Sore throat

Body aches

Loss of taste

Loss of sense of smell

Contact with someone Infected with Covid-19 during the past 14 days

If you have one or more of these symptoms, unfortunately you may not attend school.

# What is different at school?

- No assemblies in the school hall.
- Bring your own bottle of drinking water from home.
- No games involving groups.
- Bring a supply of paper tissues.
- Sanitise hands before every lesson.
- If you have a cell phone at school, please do not hand it in BUT ensure that it is switched off at all times!

## Ablution procedure

- Wash your hands before and after using the facilities.
- Dry your hands with a paper towel and dispose of it immediately.
- When you get back to class, sanitise your hands.



## When you get home, do the following:



Take off your shoes at the door before going in and leave them there.



Put your bookbag down just inside the front door.



Sanitise your hands.



Remove your mask but touch only the elastic bands or strings.



Wash your mask with soap.



Take off your outer clothes and put them in the wash.



Sanitise your hands.



Enjoy a healthy snack.



Take out the books you need and do your homework.



Sanitise your hands.



# Important information



Don't share your mask with anyone.



Wash your mask every day.



Avoid touching your face and eyes.



If you have long hair, tie your hair up.



Keep your nails clean and short.



Don't share stationery.



Avoid sharing crockery, cutlery, food and drink.



Don't mock or joke about someone who is ill.



Stay at home if you are feeling ill.



Inform your teacher if you are feeling ill at any time during the day.

**Thank you!**