# KING EDWARD VII SCHOOL

COVID-19 POLICY AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

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OVERVIEW

The purpose of this policy is to prevent the spread of Covid-19 within the school by encouraging and enforcing hygienic practises, monitoring absenteeism, identifying and reacting quickly to potential cases of Covid-19, and allowing for the continuity of teaching and learning.

WHAT ARE CORONAVIRUSES?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

WHAT IS COVID-19?

SARS-CoV-2 is a new strain of Coronaviruses that has not been previously identified in humans. Covid-19 was identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms can include fever (temperature of 38 degrees or higher), chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, cough, shortness of breath and diarrhoea. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or for as long as fourteen days after exposure. Some people may carry the virus and be asymptomatic (without symptoms), however they are still able to transmit the virus.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Human Coronaviruses are most commonly spread by fluid droplets from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it then touching your mouth, nose or eyes
- It can be spread by a person who has been infected before they have symptoms, during illness and for a short period of time after they feel better
- Researchers estimate that around 44% of infections are passed-on by people who are not showing any symptoms
- Virus particles can survive in the air for a short period of time and can remain on hard surfaces such as plastic or steel for a few days

WHAT ARE THE PERSONAL PREVENTION MEASURES?

A safe environment can be achieved through elimination of infectious particles in the air and on surfaces by always adhering to the Golden Rules:

- Prevent direct contact with persons who are sick – encourage educators, learners and staff to stay at home when feeling sick.
- Always use of personal protective equipment (PPE) – use protective face masks.
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection - reduce the risk of microorganisms in the environment by cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, desks, tables, windows, etc. hourly or less frequently depending on the circumstances. An effective disinfectant is diluted bleach disinfectant (20 ml bleach per litre of clean water).
- Social distancing - Keep a distance of at least 1.5 meters between persons where possible, avoiding gatherings and contact activities outside of the classroom such as extra mural activities, contact sport, assemblies, hall gatherings and queuing at tuck-shops or for school feeding programme meals.
- Hand hygiene - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after using the toilet, touching food and if hands are visibly soiled/dirty.
• Use alcohol-based hand sanitiser regularly, especially after contact with any person or after contact with frequently touched surfaces i.e. phones, door handles etc.
• Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed/un-sanitised hands.
• Limit airborne transmission - allow adequate cross ventilation in classrooms and office buildings. Limit visitors and the number of people that enter the school, office or classroom. Parents should enter the school only if necessary. Practice cough and sneeze etiquette – cough in the fold of the bent elbow and sneeze in a tissue which should be discarded safely in a refuse bin with a lid. Wash hands immediately thereafter.

THE MAIN CONCERNS AND CONSIDERATIONS TO BE EXPLAINED TO LEARNERS ON RETURN TO SCHOOL

● The seriousness of the current situation and that there is the possibility of many changes and inconveniences.
● The compulsory wearing of masks and/or Visors.
● Social distancing and no group gatherings. (1,5m – 2m)
● Washing of hands regularly with soap and sanitiser.
● Not touching eyes, nose and mouth.
● Coughing and sneezing into bent elbow.
● No sharing of food and/or water bottles.
● No sharing of phones.
● No use of communal drinking facilities. (Tap handles are to be removed).
● The disposal of tissues, etc to be in the specifically designated bins.
● Public transport concerns. Ensure that any form of public transport follows prescribed regulations.
● Stairs and passage-way procedures. Keep left and in single file with 1,5m following distance.
● If showing symptoms, who to approach.
● No stigmatisation of learners returning to school post showing symptoms or testing positive for Covid-19.

THE FOLLOWING TO BE PROCURED PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL OPENING

These supplies and execution of all Standard operating procedures will be overseen by the Facilities Manager and Health and Safety Committee.

● Correct spec face masks/visors to be worn whilst on campus.
● Gloves and Face Shields - mainly for Ground Staff, high risk office staff and educators wishing to make use thereof.
● Disinfectant.
● Sanitiser dispensers, refills and bottled sanitiser.
● Soap dispensers.
● Mops and rags.
● Closed bins.
● Specific wheeleie bins.
● Sanitiser to be placed at all school entrances.
● Thermometers.
● Wet Wipes (in bulk). Ostensibly to be used for electronic equipment, staffroom and offices.
● Polystyrene Cups to be used and disposed of. Alternatively, private cups/mugs to be used and cleaned/sanitised by the owner.
RISK REDUCTION METHODS FOR SCHOOLS

Procedures for Staff and Learners entering the campus

- Every person (staff member or learner) that enters or leaves a school must sanitise their hands at the entrance/gate with a hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol base. This will be provided by Security and/or a designated King Edward VII School staff member.
- Every person (staff member or learner) that enters a school should have their temperature assessed with a digital thermometer scanner as follows.
  a) Remove the protective scanner cap.
  b) Switch the scanner on and wait for the ‘00’ reading
  c) Scan the forehead of the person
  d) A reading of 38 degrees Celsius and above indicates a possible fever and should be referred for further investigation, as per the DBE Standard Operation Procedure for the Prevention, Containment and Management of COVID-19 in Schools and School Communities (hereafter referred to as the “SOPs”)
  e) Visitors and staff with a fever are not permitted on the school grounds.
  f) Learners with a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius and above must be kept separate from others and isolated in the designated isolation space, equipped with a mask and the parents/caregivers notified to collect the child for further investigation by a health professional. The principal or his/her designate must contact the school health contact person or the nearest public primary healthcare facility. The health facility must be informed if a COVID-19 infection is suspected so that the facility can make the necessary arrangements to receive and manage the patient safely to prevent contamination.
- Every staff member/learner must present their health questionnaire on arrival.
- All visitors will be required to complete a health questionnaire and declaration prior to entry to the school campus being granted.
- Anyone entering the campus must in addition to the above wear a regulation facemask and/or a visor.
- Pens and pencils must not be shared amongst learners or teachers.
- There should be no sharing of food or eating utensils.
- Social distancing must always be adhered to.
- Classrooms must be well ventilated. Ideally all doors and windows should be open during the school day.
- Classrooms must be cleaned at least twice a day with a disinfectant.

Access control for parents and third parties

Entry by visitors, parents, and vendors is prohibited unless it is essential.

- Strict access control measures are established and must be adhered to, including the signing of a register and health declaration by all visitors. Visitors, parents and vendors will not be allowed on school premises unless essential.
- All visitors must wear a face mask and sanitise their hands at the entry point;
- All visitors must report to the reception area.
- All visitors, except government officials, to make an appointment and state the nature of their visit;
- There is regular communication with parents via newsletters, telephone, bulk SMS messages, emails, etc. to minimise meetings/gatherings with parents.
- There are very limited class-based parent’s meetings.

NOTE: If it is necessary to meet parents, meetings must be limited to one parent per learner and maintain the social distance of at least two metres respecting the social gathering restrictions.

Screening for COVID-19 for all visitors, staff and learners

A screening questionnaire has been devised by the School and contains several Questions that require a Yes or No answer and include but not limited to the following:

Do you have a high temperature?  Do you have a cough?  Do you have a sore throat?  Do you have difficulty breathing (shortness of breath)?  Do you feel weak and tired today?  Have you lost the ability to taste?  Can you smell...
normally? If the answer to all the questions is “No”, the session can end, and the visitor will be permitted to enter the school for a temperature check.

**NB.** If the temperature taken is higher than 38°Celsius or higher and/or any one of the questions are answered “Yes”, the visitor will become a “person under investigation” (PUI) and must be isolated and referred for further testing. They will then be asked the following set of Questions

- In the past 14 days have you: Travelled outside of South Africa to a country with lots of coronavirus, or worked somewhere where there are a lot of international travellers?
- Travelled within South Africa to an area with local transmissions: Gauteng, Western Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Free State, Eastern Cape?
- Had close contact with someone who is suspected to have COVID-19 or has been diagnosed positive with COVID-19?
- Attended/Visited/Worked at a healthcare facility that has treated patients with COVID-19?

If the visitor answers “Yes” to one or more of the questions in the above table over the past 14 days, they are at high risk of COVID-19 infection and the necessary precautions should be instituted immediately for screening.

**NB:** Each person conducting screening must wear a face mask and must regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) during screening. Social distancing must always be observed.

**DAILY CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROCEDURES**

Routine environmental cleaning is an essential part of disinfection. Organic matter can inactivate many disinfectants. Cleaning reduces the soil load, allowing the disinfectant to work. Removal of germs such as the virus that causes COVID-19, requires thorough cleaning followed by disinfection.

1) **Cleaning of minimally touched surfaces**

Minimally touched surfaces such as floors, walls, ceilings, blinds, etc. should be thoroughly cleaned as follows;

- Detergent solution/wipes should be used as per manufacturer’s instructions.
- Damp mopping is preferable to dry mopping.
- Walls and blinds should be cleaned when visibly dusty or soiled.
- Window curtains should be regularly changed in addition to being cleaned when soiled.
- Sinks and basins should be cleaned on a regular basis.

2) **Cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces**

Frequently touched surfaces are a high-risk for cross-transmission by pathogens that are transferred from people’s hands. Items such as door handles, light switches, lift buttons, working surfaces, tables, railings etc. are frequently touched in public places (shopping malls, public amenities, airports and other public places where people gather in numbers).

- High touch areas in public places should be cleaned and disinfected regularly and daily.
- Clean general surfaces and fittings when visibly soiled and immediately.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces should be done with clean water and a neutral detergent. Detergents usually have no killing ability but do remove organic matter which contain microbes and thereby reduce environmental contamination
- Detergent solution must be used as per manufacturer’s instructions.
- Detergent-impregnated wipes may be used but should not be used as a replacement for the mechanical cleaning process.
3) General cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces

Routine environmental cleaning is an essential part of disinfection. Organic matter can inactivate many disinfectants. Cleaning reduces the soil load, allowing the disinfectant to work. Removal of germs such as the virus that causes COVID-19 requires thorough cleaning followed by disinfection. The length of time that the SARS-COV-2 virus (the cause of COVID-19) survives on inanimate surfaces will vary from hours to days, depending on factors such as the amount of contaminated body fluid, such as respiratory droplets present and environmental temperature and humidity. In general, Coronaviruses are unlikely to survive for long once droplets produced by coughing or sneezing dry out. Regular cleaning and disinfection in schools, scholarly transport and in households is critical in controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned before applying disinfectants to further reduce bioburden.

4) Application of spray disinfectants

Because COVID-19 infection is spread by droplets either through coughing, sneezing or from hands to surfaces, outdoor areas have less risk than crowded indoor areas, in part due to ventilation. Therefore, air spraying of outdoor environments is not essential. Focus should be on indoor crowded areas

- Spray floors, walls and other internal surroundings in areas of high human traffic.
- Spray communal showers and toilets.

Avoid spraying disinfectants near water sources, plants and other vegetation. Under no circumstances should human beings be sprayed with a disinfectant.

5) Technical specifications and use of disinfectants

- Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol. Disposable alcohol-based wipes may be used. SABS approved detergents and disinfectants;
- Ethyl alcohol (70%) to disinfect small areas between use and cleaning cycles;
- Chlorine, hypochlorite (strength: 1000-10,000 ppm);
- Sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) at 0.5% (equivalent to 5000 ppm);
- Hydrogen peroxide gas – for general disinfection of classes and offices

6) Cleaning Procedures

- Perform hand hygiene before and after removing gloves;
- Use heavy duty gloves. Elbow-long gloves are recommended;
- Eye protection may be worn, such as goggles or visors;
- Clean with water and disinfectant. Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
- Gloves (if disposable), masks and other waste generated during cleaning should be placed into a waste bin with a lid and disposed of safely.

7) Daily Duties of Cleaners

- Clean all surfaces e.g. floors, bathrooms twice daily with a disinfectant cleaner;
- Surfaces that are frequently touched, e.g. taps, doorknobs, reception desks must be cleaned regularly or wiped down with disinfectant wipes;
- Collect all the bags with possible contaminated waste from classrooms and offices. Tie the bin liners and place in a big refuse bag. Tie the refuse bag again and dispose safely.
- Complete cleaning rosters and checklists, to be signed-off daily.
DAILY CONSIDERATIONS FOR EDUCATORS, OFFICE STAFF AND LEARNERS

● Masks/Visors to be worn by all persons the entire time whilst on campus. The school has supplied two cloth style masks.
● To be aware of any student/educator/staff member showing emotional problems and to report such to Mr Paul Galbraith or Reception.
● Be aware of Covid-19 symptoms for early detection. Report any concerns to Mr Eugene Marx or Reception.
● Encourage learners to be Covid-19 safety aware.
● Sanitiser to be placed at entry to classrooms. Learners hands will be sanitised on entry to each classroom, as well as when having sneezed or coughed in class.
● Where and when possible to open classroom and office windows and doors.
● No group work to be done.
● No sharing of stationery and learning material.
● Staff to observe social distancing protocols constantly, both inside and outside of the classrooms or offices.
● Educators, staff and learners not feeling well or showing signs of symptoms to report to Mr Eugene Marx or Reception immediately.
● Staff to use their own food containers, mugs, crockery and cutlery. No sharing. All food and drinking related items to be taken home daily to be cleaned.
● Learners and staff are encouraged to bring their own food and refreshments in sealed containers.
● No printing in the staffroom. The staffroom printer will be disabled. Staff are requested to make use of the printing facilities in the print room operated by Mr Emmanuel Baloyi. E mail to printing@kes.co.za
● Learners are to be discouraged from going to the bathrooms during class times.
● Any learners or staff members leaving the school campus and returning during the school day, must be re-screened on entry to the campus.
● On being screened: Staff and learners will need to complete their self-evaluation health questionnaire prior to arriving at school each day. This will be checked and verified on arrival each day at the point at which temperatures are taken. This questionnaire must be signed daily by the parent/guardian, the learner/staff member as well as the screening officer. The daily form will be handed in on a bi-weekly basis.
● If the answer to any of the screening questions is YES and the temperature is 38°C Celsius or above the person will be regarded as a ‘person under investigation” and a PUI protocol will be initiated.

PROCEDURE FOR THOSE SHOWING SYMPTOMS

● No learners, staff or other persons presenting with any symptoms related to Covid-19 or flu will be allowed on the school premises. Any persons presenting with such symptoms will be required to leave the school premises as soon as practically possible.
● Staff and learners showing Covid-19 symptoms to be referred to Mr Eugene Marx or Reception in the isolation area situated at the main gate or the sick bay if identified during the school day.
● Mr Eugene Marx or Reception to call the learner’s parents/guardians immediately.
● Should a learner be a boarder the Boarding staff to be advised immediately.
● Learners showing symptoms are to be collected by parents/guardians immediately.
● If a learner is required to self-isolate at home, work will be sent via Google Classroom or any other electronic or online platform. Where the learner is well enough to do the work, they will be expected to keep up to date.
● All learners and staff returning to school after testing positive for Covid-19 must supply written confirmation that they are permitted to do so by their treating Health Care Provider.
● Learners and staff are to follow the legislated protocols regarding isolation/quarantine. As a minimum the following will apply:
  → For learners and staff who have not been admitted to a medical facility, they may return to school 14 days post onset of symptoms and no further presentation of Covid-19 symptoms.
→ For learners and staff who required admission to a medical facility, they may return to school 14 days post achieving clinical stability.
→ For learners and staff who test negative and temperature and possible symptoms return to normal, may return to school after 3 days of being completely symptom free.

SELF ASSESSMENT FOR SYMPTOMS
Parents, learners and staff are expected to complete the standard health questionnaire prior to arriving at school and should not, under any circumstances, arrive at school if they are concerned that they may have developed symptoms of the coronavirus.

A simple self-assessment would include the following questions:

1) Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms in any way?
   Fever / Cough / Shortness of Breath / Body pains (not sports-related) / Headache / Sore throat / Diarrhoea / Lost of taste OR smell.
2) Have you or anyone in your household knowingly come into close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive in the last 24 hours?

DAILY ARRIVAL PROCEDURES FOR LEARNERS
● All learners to be dropped off at the St. Patrick Road Main Gate.
● No parents/guardians will be allowed to exit their vehicles.
● Learners may only arrive from 6 30 am and must be wearing a mask and strictly adhere to social distancing.
● They will have their hands sanitised as they enter the gates.
● Screening and registration will start at 6 30 am and end at 7 30 am daily.
● No learners may proceed to classrooms without having been screened.
● Any learner with a temperature of 38 degrees and above will be placed in isolation. PUI protocols will be observed and if these are not satisfied the parent/guardian will be phoned to fetch the learner immediately.
● Late arrivals are to be escorted by security to Mr Eugene Marx or Reception.
● Boarders are to walk along the main footpath past the Soccer Fields and report for screening.

DAILY ARRIVAL PROCEDURES FOR EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATION STAFF
● Staff arriving from off campus are to enter through the St Patrick Road Main Gate only.
● Staff living on campus must report directly to the screening centre before entering the main school teaching block.
● Parking for staff and learners will be in Oak Street, only.
● Staff arriving from off campus, will be screened at the St Patrick Road Main Gate.
● After screening Staff to proceed directly to their teaching venues and/or the Staffroom. No staff member may enter these areas unless they have been screened. Arrival times for staff will be at 6 30 am – 7 30 am; 9 00am – 9 45 am; and 11 50 am – 12 30pm.
● Any staff member with a temperature of 38 degrees will be isolated and be regarded as a person under investigation. PUI protocols will be followed.
DAILY ARRIVAL PROCEDURES FOR GROUNDS AND BOARDING STAFF

- Permanent and casual ground staff are to report to Mr Anthon Keyter’s office for registration after they have been screened and temperature checked at the Main Gate at St Patrick Road.
- Boarding staff are to report to Miss Kelman at Buxton House after having been screened at The Main Gate.
- Boarding Staff arriving before 6 30am must report to their line manager for screening.
- Any permanent or casual ground staff member with a temperature of 38 degrees and above will follow the PUI protocols and must report to Mr Anthon Keyter.

SUBJECTS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Sanitising to be strictly regulated for all keyboards and mouses.
- Alcohol/wet wipes to be used.

AREAS OUT OF BOUNDS

- All sports fields including grandstands.
- Indoor and outdoor cricket nets
- Swimming pool area
- Gym and Rowing Gym
- Art Block, Maths block and all Pavillions.
- Loitering in Passageways
- Classrooms at break times
- Library
- Hostels during school hours

ABLUTIONS

The school will designate which bathrooms will be open to learners and staff during the day. Limiting the number of facilities in use will enable better cleaning routines and management.

All ablutions will be regularly cleaned throughout the day, with specific cleaning done both before the start of the day and at noon.

Ablution use will be supervised to ensure that all learners sanitize their hands both before and after entering the facilities. No more than four learners will be permitted into the designated bathrooms at any one time.

BREAKS AND LUNCHTIMES

- More educators to be designated to break duty to ensure social distancing in an allocated area.
- In the event of rain or inclement weather, staff and learners will be advised of procedures and allocated areas.

TUCK SHOP

- The Tuck Shop will be open during first break and lunchtime only.
- There will be a limited menu and orders will be taken in the morning directly after screening. The orders will then be picked up at the required time. All social distancing protocols will be strictly adhered to upon entrance to the Tuck Shop.
- Strict hygiene protocols associated with food will always be observed.

**END OF DAY**

- The School campus must be vacated within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the last lesson of the day.
- No congregation of learners at school gates. All social distancing protocols must be observed until departure.
- All learners are encouraged to be collected within 15 minutes of the last lesson of the school day.

The school will publish the official times on D6 and School Web Page.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMMES**

- No formal organised inter-school sport, extra murals and practices are to take place until further notice.

**COMORBIDITIES - STAFF AND LEARNERS**

- The school will be guided by the protocols of the Department of Basic Education and the Gauteng Department of Education.

**COUNSELLING FACILITIES**

- Learners and staff are to be referred to:
  ➔ Mr Paul Galbraith.
  ➔ One of Heads of Houses.
  ➔ Kaelo Wellness Programme for staff members (details may be obtained from Mrs Lynn Dale)

**OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS**

- No non-essential service contractors will be permitted on the school premises without the prior permission of Mr Ian Sim – the Business Manager or Mr Anthon Keyter – the Estate Manager.
- Where possible to limit work to afternoons after the school day.
- Mr Eugene Marx – COVID-19 Compliance Officer and Mr Anthon Keyter - Estate Manager to enforce the wearing of masks and other protocols.

**VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

- Access to the school shall be limited to staff, learners and security only.
- Parents/Guardians wishing to contact the school may do so via email (as per the website), telephonically and online Zoom meetings may be arranged where necessary.
CODE OF CONDUCT

The following clause has been adopted by the Code of Conduct for King Edward VII School. (Available on all communication channels except the printed booklet for 2020).

In each instance where a learner does not adhere to the policy concerning either social distancing, hand sanitisation, the correct wearing of a mask and any self-diagnosis measures required, the learner will be referred to the Headmaster or his delegate.

STIGMATISATION POLICY

The following extract from the Department of Basic Education will be instituted as policy.

Below are some do’s and don’ts when talking about COVID-19.

Don’t attach geographic locations or ethnicity to the disease to express contempt or disapproval.
Do talk about people who have or may have COVID-19. But do so in a positive manner.
Don’t refer to the people with COVID-19 as suspects or cases or victims. This is disrespectful and devalues individuals.
Do talk about people acquiring or contracting COVID-19.
Don’t talk about people transmitting or infecting others with COVID-19.
Do speak about COVID-19 if you use proven scientific facts and only if this is positive and enhancing the conversation.
Do emphasise the effectiveness of prevention and treatment measures.
Don’t share funny clips or photos with stigmatising messages.
Do honour the scientific and health guidance from the government to stop the spread of COVID-19.
Don’t emphasise or dwell on the negative or threatening messages that drive fear.
Do support fellow educators, staff, learners, families who are affected by COVID-19 with love and compassion.
Do take physical distancing seriously. Follow the guidelines and all instructions that pertain to this.
Don’t stigmatise anyone who has recovered from COVID-19.
Don’t allow social isolation. Those impacted need your compassionate support while maintaining physical distancing.
Don’t apply religion and spirituality out of context or in a random manner to make a point about COVID-19.

MOST IMPORTANTLY SHOW LOVE AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.