

COVID 19 WELLBEING – RETURN TO SCHOOL POLICY

Compliance

- The school will fully cooperate and comply with all measures and guidelines stated by the SPEA & MOHAP
- The Health and Safety Officer has been assigned to handle any emergency situation, follow up and monitor the implementation of health and safety procedures, and conduct all necessary trainings for students and staff. This person is also responsible for the designated Isolation room within the school premises.
- The school has designated a School Task Force Team, which consists of the following members:

School Wide		
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School Wide – Emergency # 050 2092959		

Entry, Pick Up, And School Visit Procedures

- The School has installed Thermal screening technology at all entrances of the school. Students who are taking the bus will have their temperature scanned by bus personnel before getting onto the bus/ Anyone with a fever equal or greater than 37.5°C.
- The child should remain at home if they record a temperature of 37.5°C or higher.
- If a student records a temperature of 37.5°C or higher at school, they will be retained in a Designated area.
- The class teacher is responsible to refer students with COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, body aches, fatigue, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, diarrhoea and nausea, and headache, to the school doctor for further screening as per the MOHAP guidelines.
- Staff will be discouraged from exiting the school during the day but will be permitted to do so for emergency purposes. Staff that exit the school will be requested not to return to school unless they have fully sanitized and changed their clothes upon their return. They will also undergo thermal screening before entry.
- Only one family member or a guardian is allowed to enter the school for drop off and pick up of a student(s). People with compromised medical conditions, including the elderly, should not come for drop off and pick up.
- The school has implemented a staggered entry and exit procedure to eliminate overcrowding and to maintain 2 metres physical distancing in high traffic areas.
- Meetings with parents should take place online via Teams or Zoom unless there is a critical need for a one to one meeting. If a meeting is critical, an appointment must be requested by email and will need to be made and approved beforehand.

Hygiene

- The school has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, all disinfection, sterilization, and deep cleaning procedures as per the SPEA guidelines.
- Common areas in the school (i.e. toilets, pantry, waiting areas, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected every hour. This also applies to frequently used areas/surfaces such as door handles, dining tables, seat rests, etc. 5.3 Daily clean up and sterilization of all areas and surfaces of the school premises and effective sanitization post completion of each day will be conducted.
- Awareness and educational posters describing handwashing steps near sinks and hand rubbing near sanitizer stations, plus additional pop up banners have been installed throughout the school. The return to school health and safety video showcases all hygiene protocols and communication material placed throughout the school.

Set-Up / Physical Distancing Arrangements

- The school will ensure the 2 metres distancing measure is maintained in all common areas, service desks, etc. where different groups of students, staff and visitors are mixing.
- Classroom areas will maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres per child in each classroom provided everyone wears a mask.

- The use of toilets will not become crowded by limiting the number of students who can use the toilet facilities at one time.
- Contactless payments are strongly encouraged.
- Staff rooms and kitchens can be opened for usage by staff strictly maintaining a 2 metres physical distancing

Educational Provision

- Student ratios will vary depending on the size of the classroom. The school will ensure that a safe distance of at least 1.5 metres per child is maintained in the classrooms, aided by Perspex dividers in some areas.
- The school will ensure that students are in the same small learning groups at all times each day in the Primary schools, and different groups are not mixed during the day.
- Class rotations are kept to a minimum. Where necessary, students should remain in a designated classroom, while teachers rotate instead.
- Students will be designated a chair and table and no swapping among students is allowed.
- Students or staff with high risk conditions (specific illnesses or immunocompromised) will be offered alternative education means (i.e. online provision), until further notice.
- The school will ensure that academic provision is made for all the students who are unable to attend their classes physically (due to health condition, isolated, quarantines, etc.)

Shared Resources / Materials

- Toys and other common resources will not be shared with other groups of students, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other where possible.

Food & Beverages

- Pre-packed food and beverages are allowed, on the condition that they follow necessary guidelines (only disposable containers, frequent sanitization of machines, and pantries items)
- Teachers will supervise to ensure that children do not share food.
- Water dispensers are not allowed. Parents are encouraged to send bottles of water to school with their children.

Transportation

- School buses will be used at half capacity and marks on chairs for seating guidance will be placed.
- Anyone entering the bus should undergo temperature screening. Anyone with a temperature equal or greater than 37.5°C will not be allowed on the bus.
- Bus hygiene will be maintained by following the appropriate sanitization and physical distancing standards. For example, seat belts, arm rests, handles, rails, etc. should be sanitized after each use, in accordance with RTA's relevant guidelines for public transportation

Students of Determination

- Students of Determination will be fully supported when they come back to school. As students join back individual plans will be put in place for those students who need extra help and guidance.
- Students with Learning Support Assistants will still be fully supported by their Learning Support Assistant.
- The school aims to keep students in the common learning environment as much as possible but depending on individual needs.
- Intervention Classes will keep students in their learning bubbles. Support will be delivered both in class and out of class.
- All intervention and support will maintain social distancing guidelines.

Staff and Student wellbeing: Supporting students and staff cope with anxiety/trauma:

- A comprehensive wellbeing plan is in place which has been adapted and evolved to accommodate Distance Learning. This involves an annual awareness and support program for teachers' students & parents and individualised support plans.
- Additional counselling sessions for Staff and students who may have experienced confinement, social isolation, and loss and bereavement amongst many other things.
- Social Workers and wellbeing support staff have appropriate knowledge of how to communicate with Students of Determination and demonstrate an understanding of their unique circumstances since Students of Determination may be more emotionally vulnerable as a result of the COVID 19 situation and this may impact negatively upon their emotional health and wellbeing.

Communication:

- Transparency is of the utmost importance in tackling COVID-19. Schools shall develop a parent communication plan.
- The school will regularly communicate with parents and update them regarding the return to school and our plans.
- Communication will be maintained on a weekly basis through HOS letter and messages via Telegram & I campus and update emails etc), to keep them abreast of progress, challenges, and to remind them of their role in keeping their children safe by enforcing the basic preventive measures