



THE KING'S SCHOOL – WHITE RIVER

POLICY OF SAFETY DURING COVID 19



The virus called COVID 19:

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has been confirmed as the causative virus of COVID-19. To date, COVID-19 has become a global pandemic and it is continuing to spread across the globe.

At The King's School we don't want the virus to spread, we consulted the Department of Health, and as a school the following measures will be put in place until an effective vaccine is identified and available. **Parents should explain to students why the following safety measures are in place.** It is very important that all stakeholders understand the severity and impact on the school and community.

1. What is expected from parents:

- Parents should see to it that their children have at least THREE cloth masks with them daily, **two at school**. One will be on your child's face; one will be in your child's bag, for when an accident happens. One will be automatically in the wash. Wash masks with soap and warm water, iron the washed mask.
- **Royal blue masks will be sold at the uniform shop at cost price R30, 00 each.** Please see that you buy the correct size for your child and you have to buy at **least three**. We want the mask to fit in with the school uniform of the students. *No funny or designer masks will be allowed.* Start educating your child about how to use the masks. Your child should know not to touch the mask from the outside or inside. The minute your child touches the mask, it will be treated as contaminated. The teacher will ask the child to remove the mask,

to fold it in half and to place it into his/her school bag. The extra, clean mask in your child's bag, will then be used, and the minute the child gets home, **parents must see that the child removes his/her uniform, place it in soap water and to take a bath or a shower every day.** The Department of Health urges parents to stick to these regulations as the virus could spread easily from the child's clothes to a family member at home. The virus is active on clothes for at least seven days before it dies.

- Remove all the books, stationery, lunchboxes, water bottles and other items from the bag and spray it with an Antibacterial Surface Sanitizer. Spray the outside and inside of the schoolbag. The Department of Health informed us that the COVID 19 virus **remains 10 minutes in the air** and that some people might show symptoms after 1 day, but it can take a carrier of the virus up to 28 days to show symptoms, The virus **lasts 5 days on plastic, 4-5days on wood (tables) and paper.** The virus **stays for 4 days on glass** and it lasts on **aluminium for 2-8 hours.** On shelves the life span of the virus is as long as 48 days.
- Teach your child that friends must never be allowed to borrow or touch your child's mask. If this happens to your child, your child must report it immediately! Parents will be notified when masks are available at school and we will sell them at the gate. We want to limit the amount of people moving onto the premises as it enlarges the risk of the Covid 19 virus spreading.
- Only parents (hostel mother/father) will be allowed to mark the royal blue masks. Not the students. They tend to mark it with tippex and permanent markers and no study showed us that it's a safe way of marking a mask. As parents ensure that you educate your child about the importance of the mask. **Teach your child not to touch his mask, to lick or talk behind the mask, and when the mask gets wet to remove it, place it safely in a plastic bag and replace the wet mask with a clean, dry mask in his/her bag.**
- Any child showing up at school without a mask, or a parent, staff member, teacher, general worker or a visitor will not be allowed to enter the premises. Parents will be notified immediately. We urge parents to keep your phone close by and to check hourly if the school did not contact you.
- Parents should inform the school about students with underlying problems. Send your child health risk to principal@thekingsschoolwr.co.za It will be treated as confidential.
- **When your child enters the gate, he/she will walk through a sanitizing booth. Screening will take place and data must be kept. All students, teachers, staff and support staff with a temperature of 38° and higher will not be allowed to enter the premises.** The parents and the necessary authorities will be notified. *(It remains the parent's responsibility to notify the*

school if your child is ill, to provide us with a doctor's letter, and to keep your child at home until your child feels better).

- **Your child will then be asked to sanitize his/her hands, and will then walk straight to his/her register class.**
- **Before your child enters the class, an alcohol based sanitizer will be given to your child.** Educate your child about the correct method by law to sanitize and to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Remember all the fingers, palms, on top of both hands, thumbs, in between fingers and underneath nails.
- **According to the Department of Health gloves are dangerous.** Students will not be allowed to wear gloves.
- Classes will not be bigger than the allowed 40 students in each class sitting 1, 5 meters to two meters from each other. Parents must educate students how to estimate 1, 5 meters to 2 meters. Parents must explain to students the importance of remaining 1, 5 meters away from any staff member and other students.
- Ensure daily that your child has at least two school cloth masks available, for the school day when you give your child his/her lunchbox, own stationery, Edu-pad, books and masks. Sanitizer will be made available at school, but teach your child to sanitize/wash his/her hands **at least twenty times** a day.
- Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast before he/she comes to school. **Give your child the correct vitamins and immune boosters.** Consult your medical practitioner, pharmacist or clinic.
- The school rules of The King's School are quite clear about the concept of touching. No child will be allowed to touch another and social distancing of 2 meters should be kept at all times. This is a law in South Africa and it is expected of students to make social distancing a top priority.
- A sad reality by law is that hugging (and our little ones like to express their love using a hug), shaking of hands as a universal greeting method will no longer be allowed. Our foundation phase parents must educate your child about hugging.
- No talking or back chatting will be allowed when the student is wearing the mask as the mask **will become wet, becoming a danger to others.** Please explain this to your child.
- **Students should be educated not to touch their face, this includes nose, mouth and eyes.**
- **Students must be educated to cough and sneeze in a tissue and dispose the tissue immediately into the nearest bin and then wash or sanitize their hands immediately. They may also cough or sneeze in a bended elbow.**

- Students should be reprimanded not to share stationery, clothes and food – their lives is just too precious.
- Speak to students about sharing sandwiches, containers and cutlery during break. It won't be allowed.
- Student's lips should never touch a tap whilst drinking water. An aunty will stand there with cups, regulating and washing the cups of student's drinking water during break. In between classes students won't be allowed to move around. . Provide your child with a full water bottle (mark it) in the morning. No sharing will be allowed. Explain to your child the reasons for not sharing.
- **Hands should be washed regularly for 20 seconds at least 20 times a day as instructed by the department of health.**
- During break – half of the class will be dismissed with a teacher, staying 1, 5 meters away from each other. They will sit down and eat their food with an educator present at all times. They will be taken to the bathroom by a teacher, toilet seats, handles and taps will be wiped with a Jik cloth before a child or staff member uses the bathroom. Educate your child about the procedures mentioned. Not to touch the toilet seat etc,
- Orders at the tuck-shop will be taken. The ladies will visit the classes and take a daily order for the next day, and then deliver food to specific classes. All the orders will be taken the previous day. Orders will be delivered before break. All health safety precautions and sanitization will be in place. A child touching money, need to wash or sanitize his/her hand before eating.
- Parents will not be allowed on the premises. We want to minimize the spread of the virus. Teacher's, monitors will accompany the child to the gate. You will sign for your child.
- Parents that want to speak to a teacher, monitor or principal must please phone and make an appointment. We will meet you at a specific area.
- Parents should contact the school immediately and inform us about absenteeism. To save lives, let's stick to the truth. If your child has Covid 19 inform the school to ensure that the necessary steps can be taken, for others in your child's class.
- Parents must take note that the Department of Education announced that a child identified with Covid 19 will be isolated and kept in quarantine at a specific venue for 14 days. Teachers also.
- Parents making use of public transport, ensure the driver follows the rules with sanitizing, masks and seating arrangements.
- The taxi-driver must have the necessary documentation ready. Passenger list, the allocated seating plan as well as sanitizing procedures.

- Students should sit still in the bus and taxi, no talking, touching, eating and buying. We ask parents to make use of responsible public transport or to place your child in the hostel. Your child's life is on the line.
- Hands to be sanitized in bus or taxi, as stipulated by the minister of health. Report if this is not happening. Aftercare facilities are no longer available.
- When students arrive home. Let them remove all the clothes, masks and if possible wash it immediately. Students should take a bath or shower and get into their pyjamas.
- Parents should sanitize the lunchbox, schoolbag, stationery, books with sanitizing spray.
- Parents should remember to wash their hands for 20 seconds after touching their children's school equipment.
- Students must never borrow. Parents to make sure students have sufficient stationery and food on a daily basis,
- Edu-pads, mouse, keyboard and pouch should be sanitized daily.
- Parents should inform the school about any illness that the child might have.
- Students to be taught at home to use bended arm technique when coughing or sneezing, or make use of a disposable tissue and throw it away immediately.
- The Mpumalanga Health Department asked all students, parents, staff and family to visit their nearest pharmacy and to get their flu vaccine.

2. What is expected from the school

- Schools should be deep-cleaned and a certificate should be available at school for all stakeholders concerned.
- The school bought three sanitization booths. Students will be asked to move slowly through the booths, lifting their feet inside in order for us to sanitize their shoes as well.
- Before they will be allowed to move through the booth, their temperature will be screened. After they moved through the booth they have to sanitize their hands. All the data must be kept and sent to the department of health.
- Royal blue masks will be provided by the school for R30 each.
- Enough water drinking stations and stations where students can wash their hands for 20 seconds will be made available.
- Bins in classes should be emptied by the teacher after each period.
- The school will measure the temperature of a child in the morning, after break and before students return home.
- Classes will be sanitized when day scholars leave. Classes will be sanitized again when hostel students return to hostel after study,

- Break: Boys on soccer field 1, 5 m away from nearest friend. Papers thrown in dustbin. Teachers make sure of that. Dustbins must be emptied before girls break. The teacher should accompany boys and see that the necessary social distance is obtained at all times. The same procedure will be followed by girls.
- No student will run around, shout, whistle. Students to be accompanied onto soccer field and netball field will be under total control. Students remain 1, 5 meters away from each other. Wearing masks at all times. Two teachers to be present: one teacher accompanies children to the bathroom, one remains on the soccer or netball field.
- When students enter any class hands to be sanitized.
- Students will not be asked to hand out books.
- Hands to be sanitized regularly when touching any type of surface.
- Teachers will not be exposed to marking or signing of books. Students should mark their own work with their own pencil.
- Tests will be marked by the teacher with gloves.
- Birthday parties or any other form of gatherings at school are no longer an option.
- Sport activities, cultural activities, meetings, book viewing, fun day, a matric farewell and trips will be cancelled for 2020.
- The above rules form part of the Rules of South Africa. Parties that break the rules will be arrested.
- **Parents who would like to let their children remain at home and receive lessons over long distance daily (by means of skype or zoom) will be accommodated if it is remunerated, financially viable for the school and if the school sees that there is a popular demand. Let the school know if you are interested.**
- As soon as the Minister of Education announces that other grades might come to school, the policy might be adjusted. This is a flexible policy.

Owner, Principal and the SMT of The King’s School

“We can combat COVID – 19 together. God’s grace will be upon us all!”

