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**Sent via E-Mail**

**10 March 2020**

Dear parents

**Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

We would like to provide an update on what we are doing as a school with respect to minimizing the risk of an outbreak and spread of the Corona virus at Woodridge. We are being informed as to the potential risks on a regular basis and we have taken the necessary precautions to date. The safeguards currently in place are listed below.

1. The dining hall staff are sanitizing all work surfaces and tables on numerous occasions throughout the day.
2. The bus drivers have all been briefed and trained on how to sanitize the busses. The buses will be sanitized regularly during the day.
3. We have placed an order for trigger spray bottles for each class room and will keep you advised as to when we will implement this.
4. Dr Konrad van Hagen will be doing an information briefing to all support staff on Tuesday 10 March. He will also keep school management informed about increased risks and the need for the implementation of further safety precautions.
5. Every ablution area on campus is fitted with hand sanitizer dispensers.
6. Extra sanitizers have been placed at the entrance of the dining hall.
7. Teachers have communicated the importance of washing hands to the children and posters have been placed around the school.

It is important to note the following with regard to schools and the possible threats. The Minister has pledged to keep the public abreast of any developments and updates. The information has been extracted from a document circulated to all Independent schools and the document, in its entirety, can be found on the ISASA website.

### **Questions and Answers posed by the Daily Maverick to the Minister of Health.**

1. **What should someone in South Africa do if he or she suspects they may have contracted Covid-19? Especially people who have travelled to Covid-19 affected countries or who have been in touch with someone who travelled to Covid-19 affected countries. What number should they call? What will happen after they call this number?**

People who develop symptoms of respiratory illness including cough, fever and shortness of breath either during and/or after travel to countries where coronavirus is known to be circulating must contact the **General Public Hotline Number on 0800 029 999**. The operator will then guide the caller on the steps he or she should take, including how to seek appropriate medical care and share information about travel history with their healthcare providers.

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2. **What is your advice for the public in South Africa regarding the use of masks?**

There is no evidence that masks protect people who are not sick/infected. If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection. Wear a mask *if you are coughing or sneezing*. Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. If you wear a mask, read the package insert that will guide you on the proper use and disposal of the mask.

3. **Are there self-isolation guidelines for South Africa, such as those in the UK, and what steps have been taken to disseminate such guidelines to the public?**

The Standard Operating Procedures for Preparedness, Detection and Response to a Coronavirus (2019-NCOV) Outbreak in South Africa is the document that outlines the standard operating procedures for detection and response to case(s) of suspected novel coronavirus disease (2019-nCoV) in South Africa. This document has been widely disseminated to all stakeholders across the country, accompanied by the relevant training for all personnel rendering services related to the country's response to coronavirus.

4. **What government entity in South Africa will take decisions regarding whether to quarantine larger groups like this and according to what legal framework or set of guidelines will decisions in this regard be made in South Africa?**

There is supporting legislation in the National Health Act, National Plague Control Guidelines<sup>4</sup> and the WHO 'quarantine considerations in the context of Covid-19' guidelines, published 22 February 2020.

5. **Should people in South Africa be placed under quarantine, either in facilities, or in their homes or their communities**

Quarantine would be in a facility. All amenities and provisions would be provided.

6. **What government entity in South Africa will take decisions regarding travel restrictions inside the country and according to what legal framework or set of guidelines will decisions in this regard be made in South Africa?**

There are no restrictions on travel or trade. If such a decision were to be made it would likely be a cabinet decision.

7. **Which airports in South Africa are checking for possible infections and are they checking every incoming flight?**

All.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) also has a toll-free number that deals with Covid-19 questions: 0800 029 999.

Yours sincerely



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**COLLEGE HEADMASTER**



**Trevor von Berg**  
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