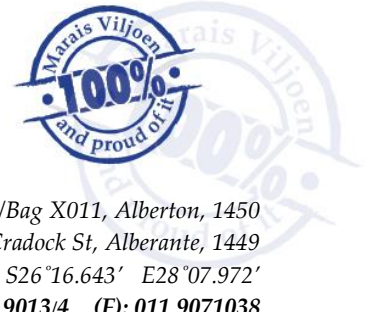




Hoërskool Marais Viljoen

Marais Viljoen High School



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15 May 2020

RE: MARAIS VILJOEN HIGH SCHOOL COVID 19 ACTION PLAN

Dear parents, learners, teachers and Marais Viljoen community. We are experiencing a time of uncertainty, with lots of questions and concerns regarding the return to school, which might become a reality quite soon. Although we do not know what tomorrow holds, I would like to set your mind at rest, for at Marais Viljoen we are putting your health, safety and education first! We have finally arrived at the restart of the 2020 academic school year. It is a fact that things will never return to “normal”, until a vaccine and/or medical intervention for SARS COV2, or the Corona virus has been found, and therefore we will treat it respectfully, but not so fearfully that we cannot function.

While we are waiting for the president, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, to announce specific dates on which the senior management of schools may return, followed by the teachers and then the learners, we would like to give you a guarantee that the members of our school's safety committee, governing body and management have been working very hard during the lockdown period to ascertain which safety and sanitation practices would be best implemented for and by the school.

In the meantime, we have drawn up a proper Covid 19 policy and are busy to put action plans in place which are linked to the Covid 19 policy. As soon as we receive the final instructions and directions from the National Department of Basic Education, we shall include these in our policy, making it available to you after it has been ratified by the Governing Body and endorsed by the Education Department.

At this stage we would like to share our own action plans with you to set your mind at rest on what could be expected when the teachers and learners return to school. We would also like to emphasise the importance of the role that parents have to play.

Please note that this action plan is still open to change, as and when the system gets updated with improvements to reduce the spread of Covid 19 or when new information or regulations become available. At present the school is not only 100% virus free, but also 100% bacteria and fungi free, after the DBE's required deep cleaning processes were followed. The challenge is now to keep the school virus free. The only way we are going to be able to do this, is if all the parties work together: parents, learners and teachers.

PARENTS: Please teach your child about the virus. Use authorities like the WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION and the CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL, and not social media as a guide line.

Teach your child the personal hygiene procedures that we have been hearing about for the past months on a daily basis. **PLEASE STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF HYGIENE! IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK, DO NOT SEND HIM/HER TO SCHOOL.**

With the phasing in and readmittance of each grade group, they will receive information and training. This information and training, which is of utmost importance, will be handled by our medical expert, governing body member and parent, Dr Gert-Jan van Zyl.

This way the school endeavours to teach every learner, worker and teacher the correct methods and directions to apply and use personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks and sanitation of hands and surfaces to everybody's advantage.

LEARNERS, REGARD YOURSELF, AND EVERYBODY AROUND YOU, AS WELL AS ALL SURFACES AS INFECTED. DO NOT TOUCH ANYBODY OR ANYTHING UNLESS YOU REALLY HAVE TO.

Remember that although teenagers are mostly immune against the virus and may thus be asymptomatic, you may carry the virus and infect your parents or teachers. Each child must have the following personal protective equipment (PPE):

MASK: Effective and washable. How to use and look after the mask will be taught on the first day of return to school. Each learner will receive one mask from the school, but must come to school already wearing a mask. No person will be allowed on school premises without a properly-fitting mask.

HAND SANITISER: Although hand sanitizer will be available and compulsory to use at each classroom, it is necessary to use frequently. We therefore request that each learner bring a small bottle with for own use as the need arises.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Social distancing will be strictly adhered to. The safety committee is busy identifying hotspots to place posters to emphasise the importance of social distancing. We shall also place markers on the floors and corridors to indicate safe distance. Management is working hard, planning how to commit to social distancing in the classroom as well...and we shall share the outcome of that planning in the next correspondence.

Please keep in mind that all **LEARNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY**. The teachers cannot remind 1400 learners continuously to keep their correct distance. The school will not hesitate to send any learner home who fails to adhere to the Covid 19 rules and regulations.

The Department of Basic Education will close any school summarily should it become a pool of infection.

SCREENING: All the learners will be screened **BEFORE** entering the school premises, and sent home if they have a fever above 37.5° or show any other symptoms. Although entrance to the school is officially open from 6:30, learners will have to come earlier than normal to allow for enough time to be screened. (Once all the grades are back, 1400 learners will have to be screened.) Should the learner fail the screening process, he/she may not enter the premises. We would advise that you take your child to your own GP, or follow the prescribed WHO protocol. Remember, many teenagers may show absolutely no signs of infection, but may be very infectious. **THIS** is the biggest problem we have to stop the virus from spreading.

At the moment we are also planning to close the school 30 minutes after the last period/activity has finished. We therefore urge the parents to get transport arrangements in order beforehand, so that learners do not have to stand outside and wait, which could lead to them congregating in groups.

We have installed a sanitation tunnel, through which the learners, workers and teachers must walk every morning after passing through the gates on their way to the buildings. They will be sprayed with hydrogen peroxide which is totally safe, yet kills the virus.

TUCKSHOP: When it is safe to open the TUCKSHOP, it will be done strictly according to Covid 19 health and safety regulations. Break time will be allocated per grade group, as prescribed and extra staff members will help monitor the queues to ensure social distancing is adhered to.

MARAIS VILJOEN's Governing Body, Management, Teachers, Workers and Learners will stand together to ensure that everybody at school and at home stay safe and healthy.

TOGETHER, 100% MARAIS VILJOEN!

If you have any questions about any of these provisions or medical/Covid 19 queries, please contact the school's Safety Committee by emailing paule@maraisviljoen.co.za.

We have experts like Dr van Zyl on standby in support.

Marais Viljoen regards

Yours sincerely


M. HEYSTEK
PRINCIPAL