

Title: Infectious and Communicable Diseases Policy		Version/Revision	1 of 2020
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HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Infectious and Communicable Diseases Policy

This policy is underpinned by:

- The National Health Act 61 of 2003
- The Disaster Management Act 61 of 2002
- The State of Emergency 64 of 1997

BACKGROUND

Holy Cross High

School aims to create an environment in which all pupils are able to excel. Holy Cross High School strives to provide fair and equitable treatment for all pupils so as to encourage and support their learning and development at an optimal level.

In addition, it is of vital importance to maintain the health, safety and welfare of all pupils and staff, as well as the community at large. It is the intention of Holy Cross High School to be vigilant in relation to the presence of any infectious disease and to ensure that the risk of infection to all staff, pupils, stakeholders and the school community is kept to a minimum by using the standard precautions and to ensure that staff, pupils, stakeholders, parents/guardians and the school community are aware of these.

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PARENTS- THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

- Please do not send your daughter to school if she has a temperature greater than 38 degrees. Learners with this temperature or higher will not be allowed to enter the school and remain the responsibility of the parent.
- Please ensure you have supplied your daughter with all Personal Protection Equipment as required in this policy.
- Ensure your daughter brings liquids in her own personal bottle as the taps may be a source of contagion.
- Please ensure your daughter has a packed lunch. All unidentified containers and wrappers will be safely collected and then destroyed.
- Note the tuck shop will not be operating during the pandemic period as we wish to limit all who enter the school
- Impress upon your daughters the stricter behavior code that will be in place during the pandemic. Make sure they understand that even a minor infringement could be a serious health risk. This will also lead to an immediate suspension

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS OF INFECTION CONTROL

- To fight against any infection, general high standards of cleanliness must always be observed, dust kept to a minimum and areas of use thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis.
- Hand hygiene is critical in controlling the spreading of disease. Staff are to continuously remind of the importance of hand hygiene to pupils and the correct technique for washing. Posters re-enforcing this message need to be placed in all bathrooms.
- Hand basins, running water, liquid soap dispensers and hand drying facilities (of a disposable nature) are provided in all toilets, kitchens and other food preparation areas.
- Closed bins, for the disposal of any paper towels are provided in all toilets, kitchens and other food preparation areas.
- Hand washing facilities are maintained in a good condition and supplies of paper towels and soap are topped up regularly to encourage pupils to use them.
- Cleaning staff are frequently reminded to check the soap dispensers.
- Hand sanitizer is to be made available at the entrance to bathrooms and all classrooms.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- The SMT of Holy Cross High School, in accordance with the guidelines and/or steps communicated by the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, has the authority to implement the following at Holy Cross High School when deemed necessary:

SANITISING EQUIPMENT

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- All persons wanting to gain access to any facility of Holy Cross High School may, as deemed necessary by the SMT - or any relevant Health Authority, be required to sanitize their hands using an alcohol-based liquid as provided by Holy Cross High School.

Sanitation by School

- Backpack pressure sprayers – garden variety – to disperse spray of disinfectant daily in toilets, corridors, door pillars and floors (relevant Face protection while applying)
- Where possible use fogger type solutions for overnight office and classroom disinfection.
- Personal safety suits will be acquired for cleaners

Sanitation personnel

- Two safety committee members and the ground staff present on the rotation roster
- Each to have personal protection equipment (disposable plastic coverall, face protection, sterile gloves, foot ware covers - school to supply)
- Training will be implemented to ensure safe behaviour while donning equipment and the decontamination procedure afterward.
- Training will be done on how to apply sanitation via sprayer.

USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Masks will be deemed a compulsory uniform item for pupils/staff for the duration of the period specified by the SMT, or relevant Health Authority.
- Pupils/Staff failing to wear the correct mask, as authorized by Holy Cross High School will be issued with a temporary mask at a nominal cost.
- The SMT will determine the suitability of masks. Scarves and wraps will not be considered as acceptable cover.

BODY TEMPERATURE ANALYSIS

- All persons wanting to gain access to any facility of Holy Cross High School may, as deemed necessary by the SMT - or any relevant Health Authority, be required to undertake a body temperature analysis prior to being granted access to any school facility.
- Compulsory body temperature analysis will be conducted at all entry points to facilities of Holy Cross High School.
- Body temperature analysis will be conducted using non-contact thermometers which may include tympanic thermometers, infrared thermometers and/or thermal scanners.
- Persons with a body temperature of 38.00C or above will not be granted access to any facility of Holy Cross High School.

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QUARANTINE PERIODS

- Staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder who contract an infectious and/or communicable disease – or who come into contact with persons infected with an infectious and/or communicable diseases, are required to inform the SMT of such so that appropriate action can be taken to address the needs of the pupil and to ensure the safety and welfare of all other members of the school community.
- As deemed necessary by the SMT, or relevant Health Authority, pupils/staff who are infected with an infectious and/or communicable disease – or who have been in contact with persons infected with an infectious and/or communicable disease, may be required to quarantine from Holy Cross High School for a specified period as deemed necessary by the SMT - or relevant Health Authority.
- During the abovementioned quarantine period, the pupil / parent / staff member will not be granted access to any Holy Cross High School facility.
- Learners quarantined at home will continue to be assisted via online methodologies

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- As deemed necessary by the SMT, or relevant Health Authority, all pupils, parents and staff of Holy Cross High School may be required to observe social distancing which may include, but is not limited to:
- Learners being assigned to their own desks until it is deemed safe for them to move between classes again.
- Staggering the beginning and end of the school day.
- Cancellation of assemblies, sports/cultural events and other events that create crowded conditions.
- Pupils' desks are to be at least one meter apart.
- Specific grades are to be allocated to certain toilets.
- All photocopy work is henceforth to be sent via email to main admin. It will be processed here and placed in the appropriate boxes in the staffroom.
- Not more than 4 Staff are allowed congregate in the staff room.
- Important updates and meetings to be held via teams and WhatsApp messages.
- The staff food making facilities will be out of bounds till restrictions are lifted. The common fridge is included in this point. Staff must bring sustenance that is not dependent on food preparation facilities at school.
- The tuck shop will not be operational during the stages 1 to 4 of the pandemic.

COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS

- Parents & community members & government officials are also required to follow the personal protection regiment and requirements.
- Parents & community member & government officials are to announce themselves at the reception window. After that they need to wait in demarcated spots in front of the foyer till their concerns can be dealt with.
- Payments and deliveries will be accepted through the window in the principals parlour by the Bursar who will be the lone occupant of this area till the pandemic restrictions allow otherwise.
- No face to face parent learner interaction will be allowed at school. In case of an emergency a sterile video conferencing session will be created at school.

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- No persons other than admin personnel and principal allowed in admin offices.

COMPULSORY BEHAVIOR AND ACTIONS

- Learners to enter school via pedestrian gate separated by at least 1 meter.
- At all movement must be in rows. All rows must all be single file. When moving around the school. At no time may learners walk abreast and approach each other within 1m.
- Entering and leaving classes will happen in the same manner.
- Learners are to go directly to their assigned seat when they arrive at school. Educators will be on hand.
- Absolutely no congregating outside the gate will be tolerated.
- When using stairs note the designation of up and down cases. Here too learners must move in single file and at no times may they overtake or pass each other.
- Educators will be presenting all classes to ensure compliance while teaching and learning takes place. Educators have full authority on the property.
- Behavior must be such that no one is endangered, no horse play or prankish behavior can be tolerated.
- No touching of any other person is allowed.
- Touching of railings or bannisters are to be avoided.
- Learners who endanger the health of others through misbehavior will be suspended for every offence or transgression.
- Learners may only use cloak rooms assigned to their grade.
- During breaks demarcations will indicate where learners may move around. No learners are to sit in groups where the distance between every person is a minimum of 1m.
- Areas will be designated as isolation areas (typically for those who do arrive at school with a fever and those who contravene the expected behavior code)
- These learners are to be collected from here by parents or medical personnel.
- School will be closed strictly at 4:00 pm for all earners. No learner may be on the property after their ending time.
- Ending and starting times may be staggered and details will be sent in advance. Sharing of Computer mice and keyboards will not be allowed in CAT classes or Offices
- All CAT learners to bring own keyboard and mouse to school (USB or wireless)
- Staff encouraged to bring own laptops. Computers in the staff room will need to be managed in terms of users and will be relocated around the school.
- Where IT personnel or assistant staff help others on a computer, surgical gloves need to be worn.
- Anyone being assisted must step away from the computer and give the assistant at least 1m space.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pupils, parents and staff have a legal right to confidentiality regarding their medical details. This confidentiality must never be breached by school personnel, except to healthcare professionals on a "need to know" basis. School staff should be aware that if they implement standard precautio

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ns at all times there should be no need to routinely disclose to them confidential information or sensitive diagnoses. All pupils, parents and staff have a right to be treated equally, without prejudice or discrimination.