



St Patrick's CBC

Infectious and Communicable Diseases Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of St Patrick's CBC is to create an environment in which all pupils are able to excel. St Patrick's CBC 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.

This policy outlines clear and actionable steps to be taken for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of infectious and/or communicable diseases at St Patrick's CBC.

The Executive Head of St Patrick's CBC, 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 steps below to ensure the health and safety of all relevant parties.

2. RATIONALE

It is the intention of St Patrick's CBC 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.

In drafting this policy St Patrick's CBC complies with the provisions of:

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

3. STANDARD PRECAUTIONS OF INFECTION CONTROL

To fight against any infection, general high standards of cleanliness must be observed at all times, dust kept to a minimum and areas of use thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis.

Hand hygiene is widely acknowledged to be one of the most important ways of controlling the spreading of disease. Evidence suggests that many people do not use the most effective technique when washing hands. Staff are to continuously reiterate the importance of hand hygiene to pupils.

- Hand washing facilities are provided for all pupils and staff:
 - 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 basins are at an appropriate height for staff and pupils of all ages.

4. PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The Executive Head of St Patrick's CBC, 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 St Patrick's CBC when deemed necessary:

4.1. USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

4.1 Masks

As deemed necessary by the Executive Head, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or relevant Health Authority, all pupils and staff of St Patrick's CBC may be required to wear protective masks when on campus. In the event that the aforementioned is required:

- 4.1.1 The mask will be deemed a compulsory uniform item for pupils/staff for the duration of the period specified by the Executive Head, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or relevant Health Authority.
- 4.1.2 Pupils/Staff failing to wear the correct mask, as authorized by St Patrick's CBC will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct.

- 4.1.3 St Patrick's CBC will authorize which masks will be permitted.

4.2 BODY TEMPERATURE ANALYSIS

- 4.2.1 All persons wanting to gain access to any facility of St Patrick's CBC may, as deemed necessary by the Executive Head - or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, be required to undertake a body temperature analysis prior to being granted access to any school facility.
- 4.2.2 Compulsory body temperature analysis will be conducted at all entry points to facilities of St Patrick's CBC.
- 4.2.3 Body temperature analysis will be conducted using non-contact thermometers which may include tympanic thermometers, infrared thermometers and/or thermal scanners.
- 4.2.4 Persons with a body temperature of 38.0°C or above will not be granted access to any facility of St Patrick's CBC.

4.3 SANITISING EQUIPMENT

- 4.3.1 All persons wanting to gain access to any facility of St Patrick's CBC may, as deemed necessary by the Executive Head - or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or any relevant Health Authority, be required to sanitize their hands using an alcohol-based liquid as provided by St Patrick's CBC.
- 4.3.2 In addition, pupils and staff may be required to sanitize their hands upon entry/exit of all classrooms/venues.

4.4 QUARANTINE PERIODS

- 4.4.1 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 Executive Head 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.
- 4.4.2 As deemed necessary by the Executive Head, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa 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 St Patrick's CBC for a specified period as deemed necessary by the Executive Head - or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or relevant Health Authority.
- 4.4.3 During the abovementioned quarantine period, the pupil / parent / staff member will not be granted access to any St Patrick's CBC facility.
- 4.4.4 The policy applying to absent pupils will be implemented to ensure all work/homework is provided for the pupil in quarantine.

4.5 SOCIAL DISTANCING

- 4.5.1 As deemed necessary by the Executive Head, or at the instruction of the President of South Africa or relevant Health Authority, all pupils, parents and staff of St Patrick's CBC may be required to observe social distancing which may include, but is not limited to:
- 4.5.1.1 Staggering the beginning and end of the school day.
- 4.5.1.2 Cancellation of assemblies, sports/cultural events and other events that create crowded conditions.
- 4.5.1.3 Pupils' desks are to be at least one metre apart.

5 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 precautions 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.