



NORTHLANDS & SUNFIELD CITY PRE-PRIMARY & PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Triolet and Beau-Climat/Rose Belle Campus)

Post COVID – 19 Sanitary Procedures June 2020

***A document prepared by consulting UNICEF and World
Health Organisation protocols***

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What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus¹. The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. These symptoms are similar to the flu or the common cold, which are a lot more common than COVID-19. This is why testing is required to confirm if someone has COVID-19.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from and touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth). The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it.

¹ Coronavirus, “What is COVID-19?”, [<https://www.unicef.org/media>, June 2020]

We know it is possible for people of any age to be infected with the virus, but so far there have been relatively few cases of COVID-19² reported among children. The virus can be fatal in cases, so far mainly among older people with pre-existing medical conditions.

While COVID-19 continues to spread worldwide it is important that communities take action to prevent further transmission, diminish the waves of the outbreak and support control measures. The safeguard of children and educational facilities is particularly crucial. Precautions are necessary to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in school settings; however, care must also be taken to avoid stigmatizing students and staff. It is important to remember that COVID-19 does not discriminate between borders, disability status, ethnicities, age or gender. Education settings will continue to be welcoming, respectful, inclusive, and supportive environments to all. Measures taken by our institutions can prevent the entry and spread of COVID-19 by all stakeholders.

Today, our children are global citizens, influential agents of change. Any crisis provide the opportunity to help them learn, foster compassion and increase flexibility while building a safer and more caring community. Having information and facts about COVID-19 will help reduce students' fears and anxieties around the disease and support their ability to cope with any secondary impacts in their lives. This guidance provides key messages and considerations for engaging our school administrators, teachers and staff, parents, caregivers and community members, as well as children themselves in promoting safe and healthy schools.

The purpose of this document is to provide clear and actionable guidance for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in our institutions. Education can encourage students to become advocates for disease prevention and control at home, in school, and in their community by talking to others about how to prevent the spread of viruses. Maintaining safe school operations or reopening schools after a closure requires many considerations and we shall ensure that procedures are well implemented to promote good health of our children, staff, parents and management.

² COVID-19, "statistics of COVID-19", [<https://www.unicef.org/media>, June 2020]

Measures taken by school:

- Our institutions have arranged for **recording of temperature** of: a) all staff daily; and b) all children

Both campuses have set up a station at the entrance with equipment for temperature check. The temperature of management, staff (including school van personnel) and children will be checked upon arrival at school premises. Any one having fever or associated symptoms will be isolated from other children while being given the proper care and attention in our **isolation room**.

- Gloves have been made available to staff when necessary. All staff will be provided with a mask.
- **Regular cleaning** of school surfaces. (e.g tables, chairs, pupil's materials, toys, railings, lunch tables, sports equipment, door and window handles, teaching and learning aids etc.)
- Provision of **water sanitation** and **waste management** facilities by following environmental cleaning and decontamination procedures.
- **Hand washing** stations are available with safe water and liquid soap.
- **Hand sanitizers** have been placed in strategic areas.
- **Arrival and departure** processes are strictly monitored. There is restricted and controlled access to parents and visitors beyond a certain point inside the school
- School is promoting **social distancing**.
- A checklist has been prepared for staff to ensure sanitary procedures are maintained throughout the day at school.
- **Group gathering/events** will not be allowed in school compound for a period of time.
- Pupils will be provided with enough concrete information about COVID-19 during **Health Education** period. We as educationists will ensure to address children's questions and concerns, including through the development of childfriendly materials such as posters which will be placed on notice boards, in restrooms, and other central locations.

Activities will be carried out with pupils of each age group by focusing on good health behaviours, such as covering coughs and sneezes with elbow and washing hands often. Theatrical activities will be held in classrooms and

multimedia sessions will be carried out to empower students to be critical thinkers and makers, effective communicators and active citizens

Primary section's students will be taught about the study of viruses, disease transmission and the importance of vaccinations, history of pandemics and evolution of policies on public health and safety

- **Psychosocial support needs** will be provided to encourage children to discuss their questions and concerns. It is normal that they may experience different reactions and we shall encourage them to talk to their teachers if they have any questions or concerns. Information will be provided in an age-appropriate manner.
- The new **academic calendar** for our institutions will be distributed to ensure strategic planning takes place by all stakeholders (parents, teachers and management). Our institutions' 2020 academic calendar has been prepared by respecting the National Examinations Timetable set by the educational authorities.
- **Sick** students, teachers or other staff will be immediately returned home. Procedures have been established in case students or staff become unwell. Planning has been done with local health authorities, school health staff and emergency contact lists have been updated.
An isolation room has been prepared for separating sick students and staff from those who are well, without creating stigma and a process for informing parents/caregivers, and consulting with health care providers/health authorities wherever possible. Students or staff may need be referred directly to a health facility, depending on the situation/context (if parents are unavailable in case of emergency), or sent home.
- **School attendance** will be monitored in order to track student and staff absence and compare against usual absenteeism patterns at the school. We shall alert local health authorities about large increases in student and staff absenteeism due to respiratory illnesses.
- **Continuity of learning** has been put in practice since week 1 of confinement. In case of temporary closure of school, pupils will continue have access to quality education irrespective of day and time. All pupils have access to our online educational system on our institutions' websites. (<http://northlandspaps.com/> or <https://sunfieldcity.com/>)

- Protocols set by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology³ for pre-primary section have been abided and implemented in our sanitary procedures. Link: http://ministry-education.govmu.org/English//DOCUMENTS/PROTOCOL_SCHOOL_RESUMPTION_PRE-PRIMARY_4JUNE2020.PDF

Procedures for parents:

- Arrival (**Northlands Campus**): Teachers will welcome pupils at the hall's entrance. Therefore, parents must drop their ward at the entrance of the building.
- Departure (**Northlands Campus**): Pupils will queue up in the school hall. Responsible Parties of students must stay in the playground. Relevant teacher will drop the child to his/her responsible party in the playground upon your notification.
- Arrival (**Sunfield City Campus**): Teachers will welcome pupils at the main entrance. Therefore, parents must drop their ward at the main glass door labelled as DOOR 3.
- Departure (**Sunfield City Campus**): Pupils will queue up in the school hall. Responsible Parties of students must stay in the playground labelled as PLATFORM 1. Relevant teacher will drop the child to his/her responsible party in the playground upon your notification.
- Responsible Parties must wear a child-friendly mask and maintain social-distancing once they enter the school compound.
- Responsible parties must remember the symptoms of COVID-19 as cough or fever can be similar to those of the flu, or the common cold which are quite similar. If your child is sick, keep them home from school and inform administration about your child's absence and symptoms. Explain to your child what is happening in simple words and reassure them that they are safe.

³ Protocols of Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, "http://ministry-education.govmu.org/English//DOCUMENTS/PROTOCOL_SCHOOL_RESUMPTION_PRE-PRIMARY_4JUNE2020.PDF", June 2020

- At home, teach your ward good hand and respiratory hygiene practices for school and elsewhere, like frequent handwashing (see below), covering a cough or sneeze with a flexed elbow or tissue, then throwing away the tissue into a closed bin, and not touching their eyes, mouths or noses if they haven't properly washed their hands.
- Help children cope with the stress. Children may respond to stress in different ways. Common reactions consist of having difficulties sleeping, bedwetting, having pain in the stomach or head, and being anxious, withdrawn, angry, clingy or afraid to be left alone. Respond to children's reactions in a supportive way and explain to them that they are normal reactions to an abnormal situation. *Listen to their concerns and take time to comfort them and give them affection, reassure them they are safe and praise them frequently.*

Procedures for students:

- Pupils must wear a mask when travelling to school (school van). Mask will be removed once in classroom. Pupils will wear their mask again before departure time.
Pupils must wear either a plain (black/blue/blue grey/dark red) mask. Other colourful or fanciful masks will not be accepted in our institution.
Pupils may wear N95 mask or similar masks. If washable masks will be used, colour code must be respected at school. Plastic protective face shield will be accepted. However, the shield may be removed if the child is not at ease during classroom activities.
- Washing of hands will be done regularly with safe water and liquid soap.
- Washing hands properly
 - Step 1: Wet hands with safe running water
 - Step 2: Apply enough liquid soap to cover wet hands
 - Step 3: Scrub all surfaces of the hands, including backs of hands, between fingers and under nails for at least 20 seconds
 - Step 4: Rinse thoroughly with running water
 - Step 5: Dry hands with a clean, dry cloth or towel brought from home.

Singing a song while washing hands is a good practice to ensure the 20 seconds duration of hand washing.

- Every day the child must bring items in his/her bag:
 - A set of spare clothes. (normal not uniform)
 - A pair of slippers
 - Two small towels (1 for lunch and 1 to wipe hands after washing)

We wish all pupils and staff a warm welcome to school.

We rely on your collaboration to make the resumption of classes a smooth process. Together we shall surpass all COVID -19 obstacles ahead.

Thank you.

COVID-19 Management Team.