

LAERSKOOL CHARLO PRIMARY



Dear Parent

Charlo Primary School welcomed our Grade 7 learners back on June 8th. We can proudly say that since the reopening of our school, everything has gone smoothly. We have been truly blessed over the past 3 weeks with learners who adhere to the rules and work well together. We would also like to say thank you to our parents who complete the forms so honestly every morning and keep learners with the slightest symptoms at home. The only way we can overcome this virus is if we all work together and don't take chances with the health of others.

As a school, we have set some general rules for staff to ensure that, should there be a positive case in the school, we can minimize the number of people affected by it. Some of the rules include that the Foundation Phase Staff remain on their side of the school and the Intermediate and Senior Primary Staff on the other side of the school. Each phase tries as far as possible to have contact with their grade colleagues only. Should one of the teachers or learners become ill, it would only affect a small portion of staff and children. The staff room has only 5 chairs that are more than 1.5 m apart. It is only used for meetings and may not be used for socializing. The Foundation Phase staff do not share a bathroom with the IP and SP staff. We have set up a strict cleaning schedule for the workers under the supervision of our caretaker Mr. Johan Barnard and Mrs. Linette Botha. All "touch points" such as light switches and door handles are continuously cleaned.

It is important that you are aware of the Department of Education's Protocol on "PUI's" (Person under investigation = person who may have the virus).

An extract from "Standard Operating Procedures for Teachers, Non-Teaching Staff and Learners on the Coronavirus (2019-ncov) or COVID-19 Outbreak in South Africa":

"An employee exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19

- In terms of the NDoH's guidelines, all employees who were in contact with the infected person are required to self-quarantine at home for a period of 14 days or for a duration as prescribed by the DoH while being monitored for symptoms.
- The HOD must ensure that all workspace(s) of those exposed are cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.

An employee tested positive for COVID-19

- The relevant public health officials will discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with the patient, and advise on any action or precautions that should be taken.
- An assessment will be undertaken by the public health officials and advice on the management of pupils or learners and staff will be based on this assessment.
- If an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and isolated in accordance with the Department of Health Guidelines, an employer may only allow an employee to return to work on the condition that they have undergone a medical evaluation confirming that the employee has been tested negative for COVID-19.

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Action to be taken when a child/learner may have been exposed to a suspected/probable case of COVID-19, or a suspected case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive as reported by the laboratory

- If a child/learner has been in contact with a **suspected** case of COVID-19 in a school, no restrictions or special control measures are required until the laboratory test results for COVID-19 have been received.
- There is no need to close the institution or send other children or staff home.

Action to be taken when a child/learner may have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19

- All close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case are required to **quarantine in their homes for 14 days** while being monitored for symptoms. They may not attend school.
- Learners who are not contacts of a confirmed case should attend school. Family and friends who have not had close contact with the confirmed case do not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their activities, unless they begin to develop symptoms.
- Learners who have interacted with a healthy contact of a confirmed case, specifically, should not be excluded from school. A person who come into contact with a healthy contact of a confirmed case, is unlikely to result in transmission.

We would like to ask that learners who live with a PUI, stay home until you get the PUI's result, even though the law does not require this. We would rather play it safe. We are far ahead with our curriculum and we will make sure we catch up with that learner.

On Friday, June 26, we sent a text message to our Grade 3 and Grade 6 parents to inform them that I had had close contact with a person who tested positive for the virus on Thursday afternoon. I immediately went into self-isolation. Although my result is negative, I still have to complete my 14 day isolation. I hope the fact that we immediately informed the parents will serve as evidence of how seriously we take our responsibility towards your child. I would rather have stories running around that Charlo school is closed, than take a chance with your child's health.

I want to remind you that we do not have the manpower to scan latecomers. This is going to be especially problematic when all grades are back at school. Our teachers need to supervise the children in the class and cannot wait for latecomers at the gate. Please ensure that your child is on time every morning. There will only be supervision in the afternoons for 15 minutes after adjournment. Please be punctual picking up your child after school, otherwise there will be congestion when the next grade is dismissed. We do not have control over children who gather outside the school in groups.

We realize that there are challenges with the questionnaires that you have to fill in in the morning. We are working hard to sort it out. We kindly ask for patience and understanding. Once this system works, it is going to make the process so much easier in the morning, especially for the younger children. The parents of the Gr R and Gr 1's know how stressful it will be for the child to answer those questions. We also want to get the children inside the school grounds and classes as soon as possible, especially on rainy days. The online questionnaire will help with this.

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I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Eon Strauss from Westering Primary as our new Deputy Principal. I believe and trust that he will be very happy with us and that with his contribution he will take the school to great heights.

Finally, I would like to bring to your attention that the school's code of conduct has been adapted to cater for learners who intentionally violate the COVID-19 school rules. This new code of conduct is there for you to view on D6. Each returning grade will have its own orientation session. Our children will be well informed about what they may and may not do.

We are excited and prepared to welcome back the next group of learners and to help them adapt to the new normal.

With faith we can overcome anything.

Charlo greetings

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