

RHENISH GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

The Oldest Girls' School in South Africa

Principal: Ms E H Slabber

6 August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

Positive Covid Cases on the Rise

Unfortunately, the rise in the Province of confirmed Covid cases has been mirrored at Rhenish Girls' High, particularly in the hostel. During the course of the past week, we have been hard pressed in our attempts, specifically in the hostel, to manage the positive Covid cases.

The first positive case in the hostel was confirmed on Wednesday, but we had sent a few learners home prior to this as it was thought that they had possibly been exposed to the virus.

We currently have 9 confirmed cases of Covid19 and in each case we have, with the help of the parents involved, contacted those who were in close contact with the infected learner.

We follow this protocol – when we are made aware of a positive case, parents of close contacts are informed and, in the case where there has been close contact, friends are asked to self-isolate. Fortunately, the number of positive cases at school has been minimal.

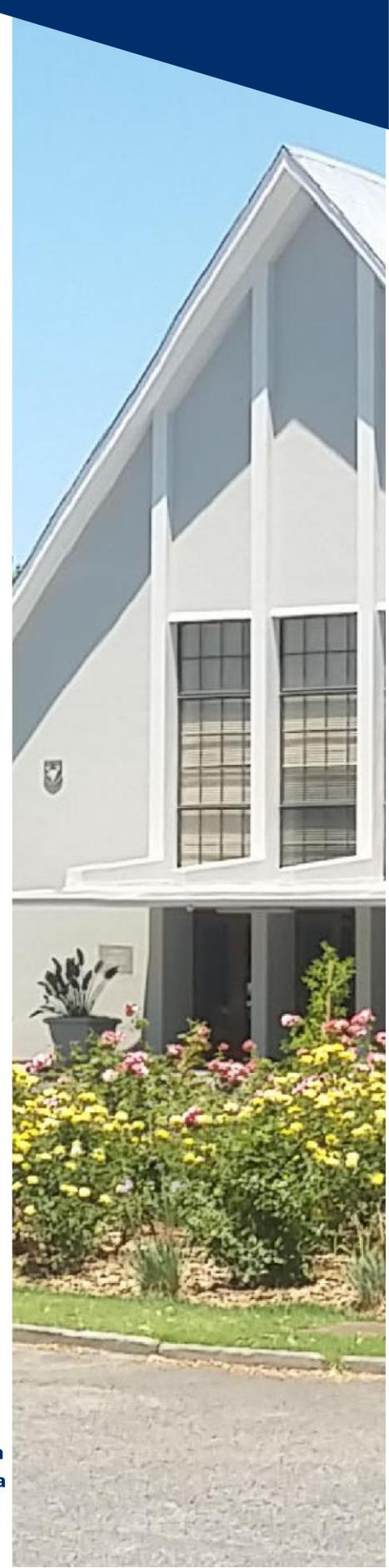
We have been in daily contact with the Department of Health and the Western Cape Education Department around this and we are carefully following their guidelines and protocols.

I am very grateful to Ms Sarga and Ms Davids for their efforts this week to contact parents and I am also grateful to the parents of learners who have tested positive for their openness and their proactive attitudes.

If a learner has been in close contact (closer than 2 metres for longer than 15 minutes without a mask) with a Covid positive person she must isolate for 10 days.

When do you START isolation:

- Day 1 is the day her friend's positive result is received.



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- If your daughter tests positive – Day 1 is the day she receives the positive result.
- If your daughter shows symptoms which make you suspect Covid, DO NOT SEND HER TO SCHOOL – Day 1 begins when she first shows symptoms.

If you are in doubt at all, if your daughter shows any symptoms, contact your doctor. Your doctor will be able to provide guidance on the isolation period and whether or not you should do a Covid test.

All learners who have been contacted and must isolate next week will be able to join their classes via Google Meet. They need to check their emails for details around this.

The entire school and the hostel will be deep cleansed by a professional company specializing in sanitization tomorrow, Saturday 7 August.

This is our first major outbreak of the Coronavirus at Rhenish Girls' High School and we urge parents please to take care of your daughters and of your families. The pandemic is far from done with us. While our President may have moved us to an adjusted Level 3 of the National Lockdown, it is vital that we continue to practise all the safety protocols and use extreme caution.

If a learner does not feel well or presents with any symptoms, please do not send her to school. It is far too risky as the Delta variant is extremely transmissible and she puts her peers and our staff at risk.

We appreciate the frank and open communication we have had with parents to date and we encourage you to convey your concerns around this to us whenever necessary.

Keep safe, wear your masks and have a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms E H Slabber
Principal