

Rhenish Girls' High School

Managing Hostel safely during Covid-19

Rhenish Girls' High School is committed to the health and safety of all learners and staff. In line with the guidelines of the Western Cape Education Department, the Hostel has developed a Hostel Policy to manage the safety of the boarders during this time.

1. Screening of boarders/hostel staff return:

1.1 All boarders, including all hostel staff, will be screened on arrival at the hostel.

The following should occur for boarders to be screened:

- Boarders must enter the hostel from the front entrance only.
- Boarders must wear a mask upon entry.
- It is important that boarders maintain social distancing and stand 1.5 meters from each other should they arrive at similar times.
- Boarders must use hand sanitiser in front of the hostel's main entrance before proceeding to reception area.
- Every boarder's temperature will be taken and recorded.
- Boarders will be asked these five questions:
 1. Do you have a cough?
 2. Do you have a fever?
 3. Do you have a shortness of breath?
 4. Do you have a sore throat?
 5. Within the last 14 days, have you had direct contact with someone known to have contracted Coronavirus (COVID-19)?
- If these questions indicate that a boarder is a risk or the scanner reading is above 38°C, then the boarder will be prevented from entering the hostel. The superintendent will be called in order to deal with the matter further and take appropriate measures if necessary.

1.2 All information collected through the screening process will be recorded daily.

1.3 Boarders will be screened twice daily. (Before breakfast & study time)

1.4 Screening of boarders/hostel staff is separate from the screening at school. (i.e. boarders will still be screened every morning when they go to school.)

2. Daily routine:

2.1 Boarders are not required to wear masks when they are in hostel, but must wear them the moment they exit hostel.

2.2 Boarders are required to keep a safe distance (1.5 meters) apart from one another at all times.

2.3 Boarders should not visit other dorms.

2.4 Hand sanitiser will be available at all entrances and bathroom areas and boarders are encouraged to sanitise regularly.

2.5 Boarders may not gather together in groups in dorms.

2.6 As far as possible boarders sharing rooms need to adhere to physical distancing (i.e. no hugging, sharing of clothing or facial masks, eating utensils)

2.7 Boarders may not make use of common room until further notice.

2.8 Should a boarder become ill during the school day, they are to report to the Hostel Superintendent immediately for further assessment.

3. If there is a suspected case of Covid-19 in hostel:

3.1 Should a hostel boarder show symptoms associated with Covid-19, the boarder will be isolated until she can be collected or taken home.

3.2 Parent/Guardian of the learner will be informed immediately.

3.3 On collection of the boarder, the parent will be provided with information on what to do should the boarder display further symptoms of Covid-19.

4. If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the hostel:

4.1 The Principal must report all confirmed cases to the Circuit Manager/District Director immediately, as well as information of the case, such as:

- When last was the boarder at school/hostel
- With whom they shared a dorm
- With whom they were in direct contact in hostel
- And with whom they were in casual contact in hostel

4.2 An assessment of the hostel will be undertaken by the Department in conjunction with the Principal and the Department of Health. The school will be advised by the district on actions to be taken. These could include:

- Boarders being isolated at home for a period of 14 days
- Sections of the hostel being closed and decontaminated
- The whole hostel being closed and decontaminated, after which, it could reopen.

4.3 No boarders who are infected with Covid-19 may remain in hostel and will be required to isolate at home until they have been cleared of the virus irrespective of whether they are termly boarders or not.

5. General:

5.1 Boarders must ensure that they have enough face masks for the duration of the school week.

5.2 Boarders are required to wear their face masks on the school property even after school hours.

5.3 Boarders may not leave the school property unless they have special permission from the Superintendent. (i.e. Art classes, jogging, Spar – only for the purchase of essential items and this is discouraged as learners should bring all essential items from home).

5.4 No visitors are allowed.

5.5 Tutors are permitted on the property providing they have been cleared by the duty teacher on duty and all screening protocols have been followed. Tutors must also wear masks and they must maintain 1.5 metres distance between themselves and the learner being tutored.

5.6 Parents are not permitted to enter the hostel and are to remain in their cars while collecting/returning their daughters for/from a weekend home.

5.7 Unless pre-arranged with the Hostel Superintendent parents are not permitted to visit their daughters during the week and are only allowed onto the school property to collect or return for the weekend.