



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES IN SCHOOLS GUIDE



Vision: A Healthy Nation by 2023

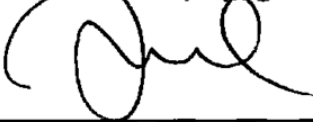
Values: Customer Focus, Botho, Timeliness, Equity, Teamwork, Accountability.

Foreword

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome due to novel coronavirus (SARS CoV-2) outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" (PHEIC) and the WHO declared the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) a pandemic on 12th March 2020.

Botswana announced the first positive case in the country on 30th March and the first death the following day on 31st March 2020. This document serves to aid healthcare facilities as they prepare themselves to screen individuals for COVID-19 as well as outlining how to handle suspected and confirmed cases.

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1 PURPOSE

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 schools

2 RESPONSIBILITY

- All workplaces should have Safety Health and Environment officer to oversee the implementation of these measures.
- Schools to have SHE committee comprising of staff and students

3 Definition of Terms

- **Cleaning:** The removal of germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects
 - Clean with soap and clean water
- **Hand Hygiene:** Washing hands with soap and clean water or sanitizing with alcohol based sanitizer
- **Sanitizing:** Reduction of the amount of pathogens (harmful microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi) to a safe level
 - Sanitize with 60% ethanol / 70% isopropyl or 0.1 sodium hypochlorite solution
- **Disinfection:** The killing of germs on surfaces or objects
 - Disinfect with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite disinfectants
- **Social distancing:** The practice of social distancing promotes a distance of 1-2 meters between people.

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL MEASURES

4 SCREENING & TRIAGING

- Schools should have a screening stations to check temperatures for staff, students and visitors.
- Schools should have a temporary holding room or sick bay for isolating those staff, students and visitors having flu like symptoms, high temperature of >37.4 and seek medical assistance at the call center **16649**.
- Daily registration of all students, staff and visitors
- Registers to be sent to command center (**16649**)

5. Routine Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Cleaning and disinfection schedule should be established for each school
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched objects such as bells, playing materials, learning and teaching aids, using wet rag with alcohol based sanitizer
- Wipe down often-touched surfaces such as door handles, window nobs, elevator buttons, lunch table, railings with wet rag with alcohol based sanitizer
- Clean classroom, bathrooms and toilets with detergent
- Cleaning staff must be equipped with basic PPEs (boots, gloves, masks)

6 Hand hygiene

- Remind, brief or train students, teachers and non- teaching staff on why, when and how to wash hands frequently.
- Students and teachers should wash their hands frequently, after touching surfaces.
- Ensure the availability of hand washing stations with soap and water or hand sanitizers dispensers; with the ideal being one handwashing station per classroom, near every door of toilet-bathroom, in dormitories, cafeteria-dining entrance, main school entrance and halls.

- Deliver messages on how to limit the risk of transmission: avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth without proper handwashing, cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the waste bin.

7 Water

- Ensure that water is available in schools in adequate quantity for the purpose of environmental cleaning and hand hygiene.
- Consider additional storage of water where needed.
- Students, teachers and non-teaching staff are advised to use reusable drinking water bottles and avoid sharing cups or glasses. These should be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day at household level by parents or guardians.
- Whenever possible, provide drinking water stations with pedal-operated taps and devices or water dispensers with sensors to minimize hand contact and reduce the risk of infection;
- Where standard taps are in use, ensure taps are regularly cleaned together with regular handwashing.
- Students, teachers and non-teaching staff should be trained on the safe management of drinking water points to avoid potential water contamination and wastage.
- Improve water safety with safe storage of treated water in regularly cleaned and covered containers in schools.

8 Respiratory hygiene

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the waste bin.
- Cough or sneeze on a flex elbow
- Students and teachers to use cloth mask

9 Social distancing

- Seating arrangement of students in the classroom should allow 1meter distance between the students
- Contact sporting activities are discouraged
- Physical activities allowing social distancing can be done

10 Measures to Take When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Ill

- Any staff member or student who is ill with flu-like symptoms, should not attend school
- When a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) in a school or child care setting:
- Isolate the person in a separate room while they wait to be picked up or until they are able to leave the facility on their own. Ensure that they have hygiene supplies available, including a cloth mask, facial tissues, and alcohol-based hand rub
- Remind staff who are monitoring the student or staff member with symptoms to practice social distancing when possible
- Close off the space used for isolation after the ill person leaves. Open it after proper cleaning and disinfection
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, focusing on areas where the person is known to have been and items they have touched (e.g., individual desk, cot, recently used toys, shared equipment)
- Wear gloves when cleaning, and wash hands after removing gloves

11 General Precautions for Disinfection When a Student or Staff Member Becomes a Confirmed Case of COVID-19

- Staff who are responsible for cleaning and disinfection should be trained to use disinfectants safely and effectively and to safely clean up potentially infectious materials and body fluids – blood, vomit, feces, and urine
- Close the school.
- Screen all the contacts in school and test contacts.
- Disinfect the school with recommended disinfectants
- Clean and disinfect all areas visited by a confirmed COVID-19 case, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, etc.
- Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use immediately.
- Students and teachers who had contact with a COVID-19 case should resume work and school after testing negative to COVID-19
- If more than seven days have passed since a confirmed COVID-19 case visited or used the facility, disinfection is not necessary
- Routine cleaning and sanitizing should be maintained

12 Additional behaviors on food hygiene for schools that remain open to provide food to pupils/students:

- Cooks/Chefs must wash their hands thoroughly with clean water and soap before cooking and serving food. In addition, they must wear a mask while cooking and when helping pupils/students to serve food during mealtime. It' is always good to avoid bare-hand contact with ready to eat food to reduce the chances of contaminating it.
 - Where possible, children should only collect meals from school rather than stay at school to eat. It is recommended that meals be served in disposable boxes where possible.
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- Schools should review their menu to ensure that they serve only hot meals. The survival of COVID-19 at different temperatures is not thoroughly researched. However, reheating food at a temperature of 149°F (65°C) for at least 3 minutes is recommended.
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13 In case pupils/students stay at schools to eat:

- They must wash their hands thoroughly with clean water and soap before and after eating food and after visiting a toilet/ latrine.
 - Handwashing facilities must be kept clean and sanitized to reduce the risk of infection.
 - Space out tables and chairs in dining areas, so they are 1-2 meters apart.
 - Limit the number of students who come into the dining area at a single time.
 - Utensils and cutlery must be kept clean before use by cooks/chefs and pupils/students.
 - Clean kitchen surfaces, points of cooking and waste bins/ bags with cloth, soap and water.
 - Food stores must be regularly kept clean.
 - Keep windows open to allow air flow.
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14 References

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<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/clean>.

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