

Information regarding the Corona Measures at the GSN

Basic assumptions on infection epidemiology and observations on schools:

- School children are in principle susceptible to infection with SARS-CoV-2 and can infect others
- However, children and younger adolescents are affected less frequently and are not the drivers of the infection
- From teenage age, adolescents are similarly susceptible and infectious as adults
- Children and adolescents often show no or mild symptoms, severe disease progression is rare
- The number of outbreaks in schools is increasing, but so far they can be well controlled
- The established infection control measures are also effective in children and adolescents and are an important element in coping with the pandemic
- Main transmission is the respiratory uptake of virus-containing particles (droplets and aerosols) in the immediate vicinity (less than 1.5 - 2 metres) of infectious persons or under unfavourable conditions with increased particle emission such as singing/screaming, closed rooms or insufficient fresh air supply

How are the rules defined?

The corona measures stipulated at the German School are coordinated by a committee consisting of the management levels and the health team in consultation with doctors and the overall parent representatives. The guidelines of the Kenyan government and the recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute, based on current scientific evidence, form the basis of the corona measures.

What corona measures are there at the GSN?

- AHA rules: Keep your distance, also during breaks and on the way to and from school/ transport, follow rules of hygiene, cough/sneezing etiquette and hand hygiene, wearing masks every day except when eating/drinking and during sports
- No greeting rituals with body contact
- Fixed group allocation/class categories without mixing
- Temporal and spatial concepts for breaks and lunch
- Path concepts, one-way path systems
- depending on the occurrence of infection, change of physical attendance to distance learning, hybrid system
- Suspension of school trips, school celebrations and other school activities that are not absolutely necessary
- Prohibition of access to school grounds for persons not specifically related to the school
- Moving school activities such as sports outdoors if possible
- No choir singing and playing of brass instruments in unsuitable indoor areas
- Creation of additional classrooms to accommodate large class sizes

- open doors and windows in the classrooms
- Temperature checks at the school entrance, before entering the school buses
- Hand washing facilities before entering the school grounds
- Persons with symptoms suggesting illness of Covid 19, or suspected contact persons of group 1 or persons tested positive are not allowed to enter the school grounds
- consistent implementation of isolation and quarantine

Objective of the corona measures:

- Resumption/maintenance of regular and reliable face-to-face teaching
- Avoidance of complete school closures
- Protection of all schoolchildren and staff against infection, including risk groups
- Prevention of uncontrolled spread of infection, ensuring rapid case detection, traceability of infection chains
- Consistent implementation of isolation and quarantine
- Strengthening the confidence of the school community, including parents and staff in a safe school environment
- Traceability of the procedure through clear communication

What happens if the Corona rules are repeatedly violated?

To be defined and communicated to the Community on 9.12

What happens if a student tests positive for Covid 19?

The affected student must be placed in isolation at home immediately, for at least 10 days after the test date and until the symptoms have disappeared. A doctor's certificate must certify that the student has been readmitted to school.

Family members such as parents and siblings have to stay in quarantine for 14 days, which will not be lifted even if the Covid 19 test is negative. During this time it is forbidden to enter the school grounds.

Based on the test date, all contacts of the previous 2 days which took place in the school setting are traced back. It is particularly important to assign the contacts identified to people in contact to category 1 or 2:

• Category 1 higher risk of infection:

Person with ≥ 15 Min. face-to-face contact

Prolonged exposure (e.g. 30 minutes) in room with high concentration of infectious aerosols

Direct contact to secretions

Contact person Category I ► Domestic quarantine for 14 days

Category 2 lower risk of infection:

People < 15 min. face-to-face contact (cumulative)

No longer exposure

(e.g. less than 30 minutes) in a room with high concentrations of infectious aerosols

Contact \leq 1.5 m if face mask is worn correctly throughout, both source case and contact person

Contact person category II ► Reduction of contacts with other people for 14 days

Based on the categories, it is determined which contact persons must also be quarantined. At the school, the Corona Response Team will carry out this contact person tracking in detail and will of course inform the parents concerned of the necessary steps. According to Kenyan regulations, the health authority responsible for our school, which carried out the school inspection in October, must be informed of positive cases.

What happens if a family member of a student tests positive?

In this case, it is usually assumed that the contact is category 1 and therefore the student in question must be placed in quarantine for 14 days, just like siblings. Provided that the student in question does not show any suspicious symptoms, fellow students can continue to participate in school activities. Parents will receive general information here and will be notified of any changes.

What happens at school when a suspected case occurs?

If symptoms occur during the school day which suggest that a student is Covid 19 ill, the affected student is accompanied to the isolation room where the nurse will look after him/her until the parents come to pick him/her up. Parents should pick-up their children as soon as possible within one hour maximum. Persons with cold symptoms can generally have SARS-CoV-2 and we strongly recommend a test. Please inform the school about the further progress.

When should a child not attend school?

Children are often sick because the immune system deals with all kinds of pathogens, especially at a younger age, and this is also important for building up a certain immunity. In times of corona, this poses a particular challenge, as children in particular often have few symptoms. For this reason, it is unfortunately not possible for children to attend school, even with only mild cold symptoms. In order to make it easier for you to differentiate, we have added a flow chart to help you see when your child has to stay at home and for how long. If you have a cold, please also consider keeping your children at home until the symptoms have been clarified.

Who do you as parents have to inform about suspected cases of illness?

Anyone can contract Covid 19! As a school, it is particularly important for us not to allow stigmatisation and to keep educating about the transmission and illness.

If there is a suspected case of infection or illness in your family, it is absolutely necessary to inform the school via the CORONA RESPONSE TEAM consisting of the school and kindergarten management, the 3 medical staff members, Mrs. Sharma as HR and the parent representative Mrs. Dr. Berit Lattorff by email to responseteam@germanschool.co.ke.

How is temperature measured at the school?

When measuring body temperature, measurements are taken on the so-called trunk, i.e. the forehead, temple or neck. The extremities do not give an exact temperature, especially in children, as these are often rather cool even when there is a fever. Think about the parts of the body you can feel when you suspect your children have a fever.

Our guards are regularly trained on how to take the temperature and what to do if the temperature is 38°C or higher:

- The person concerned is asked to take off warm clothing such as scarves and to leave the car in a designated parking area near the guards. After 10 minutes the measurement is repeated. If the body temperature is still elevated, the nurse will be called in to determine how to proceed.
- Outside school hours, if there is no nurse present, please leave the school premises when temperatures exceed 38°C, even after the 2nd measurement, in order to comply with the Covid policy

Our Thermoguns are numbered and regularly checked. Depending on the temperatures inside the car and outside, sometimes false readings can occur. If you repeatedly encounter problems with the measurement, please send an email with further information to nurse@germanschool.co.ke.

Sars CoV 2 is a new virus and is continuously being researched. This means that guidelines, which are based on the current state of knowledge, can change dynamically and will be constantly checked and adapted.

The risk of infection can be significantly reduced by the measures mentioned above, but not to zero. The preventive rules described above are components of an overall package for which we are dependent on your assistance, including in the private sphere after school hours. Let us get through these difficult times together and look ahead positively. Thank you very much for your help in keeping our school and school community healthy and safe.

Nancy Windten
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Principal

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