



# Hoërskool Roodepoort

Newsletter / Nuusbriëf

16/07/2020

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## Geagte Ouers / Dear Parents



The Department of Basic Education planned that learners should attend school in compliance with the staggered approach strategies that has been set out. Within this the DBE has also stated that the final decision regarding school attendance for individual learners remains with the parents. Thus, parents are allowed to decide that their children will rather not be attending school due to safety and caution reasons.

We've noticed that many parents have opted for the safer route, keeping their children at home, and therefore we will be launching a new teaching initiative to accompany our classes as they are being taught on school grounds.

THE  
NEW  
NORMAL

## HSR - LOCKDOWN LEARNING

- ALL work will be uploaded to the HSR-Lockdown Learning Website in PDF document format.
- WhatsApp groups will be started for ALL subjects in ALL grades (the links to these groups will be made available on the HSR-Lockdown Learning Website) and additional help will be available to learners via these groups.
- Regular assessments (in the form of quizzes and short class tests) will be scheduled. These assessments will be driven through the GoogleDocuments platform and learners will be able to complete these assessments from home. These assessment feature as a guideline to our HSR-Teachers in order for them to know where the learners' level of understanding of the subject content is at. It also assists us in keeping track of how many learners are making use of the online learning resources we've set in place.
- Learners who are able to access these PDF-documents from home or parents who are able to access these PDF-documents from work are urged to do so in order stay up to date. However, we have made provision for any learners who are unable to access the internet from home by creating a WiFi-hotspot.
- The WiFi-hotspot will be accessible from the parking lot area (allowing parents and learners access to the internet without having to step out of the vehicle) in Konig Avenue (police station side of school) and the strongest signal will be found near the corner of Konig Avenue and Kilburn Street.  
The WiFi-hotspot SSD is HSR#1.
- The Wifi-hotspot will only be active during normal working hours.
- In order to limit the amount of people accessing the WiFi-hotspot (so doing preserving internet speed) we have drawn up a schedule stipulating which grades are allowed access to the WiFi-hotspot on which days of the week.

Mondays:	Grade 12	08:00 – 14:00
Tuesdays:	Grade 11	08:00 – 14:00
Wednesdays:	Grade 10	08:00 – 14:00
Thursdays:	Grade 9	08:00 – 14:00
Fridays:	Grade 8	08:00 – 14:00

- Any further scheduled events for the collection of Drive-Thru Academic Packs will be communicated with parents formally. These events will only take place during 08:00 and 10:00 on the scheduled days.
- Please note that the HSR-Lockdown Learning Programme is additional and offered as assistance to learners who are not attending school as a safety measure instilled by parents, it is NOT a replacement for classes. School will still be running as stipulated in the staggered approach documentation.



## **Grade 12 Test Schedule For Next Week**

Monday	20/7/2020	IT and CAT
Tuesday	21/7/2020	History
Wednesday	22/7/2020	Physical Sciences (Physics)

Grade 12 learners who are not writing on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday are welcome to stay at home. Learners who are writing will be allowed to go home after their test.

## **Emotional Support**

The Covid-19 epidemic has created a lot of emotional stress and more and more people need extra support and counselling to help them through these trying times. Hoërskool Roodepoort has its own in-house counsellor who can help our learners and parents deal with possible emotional issues.

We can provide learners with emotional support telephonically if they are studying at home. Learners at home who need support, can phone the school and speak to Mr Tristan du Preez. Learners attending school can make an appointment with Mr du Preez for a counselling session.

# **A Word from the School Governing Body**

## **Academic support: Covid-19**

### **Lockdown learning:**

1. Lockdown Learning is a partial or conditional measure of home based learning, to accommodate learners with comorbidities, those who are sick or are affected by the pandemic in other ways, in accordance with Government Gazette 43465 of 23 June 2020 (Grade R-12). Parents who apply for this type of home-based learning are fully responsible for the education and safety of their children. School attendance is still the main platform for the provision of education. However, the Gauteng Department of Education is of the view that all learners affected by the pandemic should be accommodated, within reasonable limits.
2. Lockdown Learning is described as follows in Paragraph 6(1) of Government Notice 43465 of 23 June 2020 issued by the Minister of Basic Education:

*“A parent of a learner who does not return to, or attend, school after the phased return to school must apply, to the Head of Department, who, in terms of section 4 of the South African Schools Act, may exempt a learner entirely, partially or conditionally from compulsory school attendance, if it is in the best interests of the learner: Provided that the parent makes reasonable efforts to ensure that the learner continues learning from home in line with the learning materials provided by the school.”*

3. Lockdown learning will ONLY be provided to learners with comorbidities.
4. Please note that the school cannot grant permission for lockdown learning at home. There are procedures to follow to attain permission from District office.
5. As a school our staff resources are over stretched and we cannot guarantee sufficient online resources.
6. Please email the following people involved with Lockdown learning as they will be able to direct you to the relevant prescripts of law and links to follow:  
[Mosibudi.makhubela@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Mosibudi.makhubela@gauteng.gov.za) or [Elsie.simbine@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Elsie.simbine@gauteng.gov.za)

### **Learners in quarantine and self-isolation**

1. Our school web page is kept up to date, as far as possible, with all notes and academic work.
2. Each subject has WhatsApp groups where educators communicate and assist learners with academic work.
3. Some classes are streamed and links to join the streaming class in its scheduled time will be made available to learners through the WhatsApp groups.
4. As far as tests are concerned, learners will be accommodated on writing a “sick”-test upon return.
5. Printed notes are provided to learners for collection on specific days and times, every 2-3weeks.

## HOËRSKOOL ROODEPOORT



### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 CASES IN SCHOOLS**

Extra precautions should be taken with learners and staff with pre-existing medical conditions, or staff over the age of 60 years with one or more chronic illnesses, as they are at higher risk for a serious COVID-19 illness. It is advisable that such learners and staff should be allowed to work from home, where possible.

#### **Action to be taken when a child or learner appears ill or displays symptoms associated with COVID-19**

When a child/learner appears to be sick or displays symptoms of COVID-19, such as dry cough, high fever, respiratory distress or shortness of breath, or report a sore throat, the procedure below must be followed:

- **Isolate** the learner and keep them separate from other learners and staff until they can be assessed by a health professional.
- Provide the learner with a **face mask** if they don't already have one on.
- *The parents or guardians of the child/learner must be informed immediately.*
- Call the school nurse or the facility manager of the nearest health facility, the NICD toll-free emergency hotline for COVID-19 (0800 029 999) or the provincial officials whose details are listed in the DBE Circular 1 of 2020.
- The school will be advised on any further actions to be taken.

#### **Action to be taken when a case of COVID-19 is confirmed**

- The school will be contacted by the relevant public health officials to discuss the case, to identify people who have been in contact with the infected person and advise on any further actions or precautions that should be taken.
- If a school has not been contacted regarding a possible case of COVID-19 in the school, the administrators must contact the relevant provincial official whose details are listed in the DBE Circular 1 of 2020 or the NICD toll-free emergency hotline for COVID-19 on 0800 029 999 for referral to the relevant contact.
- Public health officials, with the assistance of relevant staff, will conduct a risk-assessment and give recommendations on the management of children/learners and staff.
- In most cases, closure of the school will not be necessary. The decision to close will be school- and context-specific, and must follow the procedure below.

#### **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 COVID19 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/learners 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 own activities such as reporting to school or work, 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 comes into contact with the healthy contact of a confirmed case, is unlikely to result in transmission.
- All case contacts who become symptomatic will be immediately tested by health authorities for COVID-19 and if they test positive for COVID-19, active contact tracing and self-quarantine of all contacts will be implemented.

***NB.*** Keeping learners at home or closing schools is a serious decision which may restrict the learners' ability to acquire education, amongst other considerations. The decision to direct learners to stay at home, because of possible exposure to, or infection with COVID-19 should be justified by the available scientific evidence and must be directed by the accountable health authorities.

### **Closure of a childcare facility or school if an employee has tested positive for COVID-19**

- Preparing for the possible closure of a school should only be considered following recommendations from the accountable public health official:
- Temporarily closing a school is a possible strategy to prevent or slow the continued spread of COVID-19 in the school community.
- School administrators are not expected to make decisions about dismissals or closure of schools and must follow the Departmental procedures in this regard.
- Schools must seek guidance from local health officials to determine if, when, and for how long to take these steps.
- Large event cancellations or school dismissals may be recommended for 14 days, or possibly longer, if advised by local health officials, the Provincial Head of Department, and the DBE.
- The nature of these actions (i.e. the scope and duration) may change as the local situation evolves.

# School

# FEES

As stipulated and explained in this newsletter normal school is continuing with the addition of the Lockdown Learning programme.

Hoërskool Roodepoort and all of its staff members are working extremely hard in an effort to maintain our high academic standards.

All school systems are running at full steam...

We urge parents to pay school fees as it is still costly to maintain a high level of education under these difficult circumstances.

## Hoërskool Roodepoort

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