



BELLAVISTA
• SCHOOL •

A VIEW TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

6th March 2020

Dear Parents

We can't always control our world, but we can control our reactions.

Of course, parents across South Africa are wondering how schools will respond in the face of the global threat associated with COVID-19 and South Africa's first reported case might have escalated these anxieties. Rather than respond with panic, let's think in terms of plans and sensible constraints.

As communicated last week, we are not escalating anxiety with the children, but we have increased explicit instruction around hand washing routines and have introduced targeted hand soaps and sanitisers into a thrice daily hand wash. If your child has sensory issues around these things, the Occupational Therapists are deployed to assist. I strongly urge parents to pick up a similar hand washing protocol at home.

This letter also brings a very specific call to your responsibility as partners in terms of protecting our school community. From here on, parents and students traveling to countries where there is "ongoing community-based transmission" (defined as infections with no known contact) will be subject to self-quarantine from school on their return. Our request at this point is a 14-day quarantine period and we wait on advisement if that should be extended to 21 days. Please note that not all countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19 are experiencing ongoing community-based transmission and one can check the risk of a particular location on the World Health Organisation (WHO) site or on the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (www.ecdc.europa.eu). Should you or any member of your family and extended family, find that they have been in direct contact with any person who has contracted the virus, however minimal the risk, the school will require that you apply self-quarantine for the same recommended period of 14 days. To be clear then, potential international or local contact needs this firm measure. I ask all our parents to comply with this requirement. We ask that parents submit all travel plans to Theresa

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Garden prior to departure and on return by emailing her on secretary@bellavistaschool.co.za.

One measure recommended is personal space of a meter, even within your home, and not to share beds.

Further measures, in the unlikely event of a member of the school family contracting the virus, and if we are instructed by the Health Authorities as part of a wider strategy, include a whole school quarantine. In this instance the school will deploy the Google Classrooms to create online opportunities to continue with the curriculum and therapy.

It is important to us that we don't spread alarmist rumours or feel panic. I am committed to keeping parents informed as necessary.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison M Scott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alison M Scott (Mrs)
Executive Principal

