

# Jean's Playglen cc

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## **SAFETY AND CONTROL POLICY FOR COVID – 19 PANDEMIC**

To all Parents, Guardians and Staff members,

As an industry, the Nursery school/day care environment, are faced with extremely big and important challenges on how to ensure a safe environment and healthy/children learners and staff in our institutions. Following the announcements made by the President recently, as well as the extension of the lockdown period, we want to share with you, preventative measures adopted and introduced. Many of you may be aware of all directives and protocols, some not so aware, therefore your careful attention and implementation of the following is required.

Covid – 19 is a "Global Pandemic" declared by the World Health Organisation. The immediate health risk in South Africa is relatively low but is increasing daily. In line with our Lockdown regulations, it is extremely important to stop the spread of the virus at all costs; ensuring social distancing and related hygienic measures are adhered to.

Concern over this new virus can make children and families anxious. While we don't know where and what the extent of the spread of the disease may be, we do know that it is contagious, that the severity of illness can vary from individual to individual, but there are steps that we can take to prevent the spread of infections without panic at all. We wish to keep our school times as normal as possible.

### **Our Preventative Measures:**

- 1) **Staff Training Pre and Post Covid 19:**
    - We will be doing training with staff the week of 29 June 2020 to 03 July 2020.
    - All staff will report for normal duty and will be fully informed:
    - Temperature checks on the staff are being conducted, when he/she is enter and leave the premises daily (the use of a battery-operated temperature meter will be used).
    - Temperature readings will be recorded in a daily attendance register.
    - All staff will be trained and informed properly about the contents of the policy document.
    - The entire facility will be cleaned and disinfected to standards available from the Health Department.
    - All stock required has been ordered (masks, face shields, disinfectant, sanitizers, cleaning products, table shields).
  
  - 2) **Pre- Day Care (At Home)**
    - Parents are urged to bath children before school in clean hot water (Check water temperature with your wrist or elbow, it should be comfortably warm). Please make use of Dettol/Savlon or antiseptic/disinfectant.
    - Clothe children in freshly washed clothes each day, and always send an extra pair of clothes.
    - Ensure your child (ren) get 8 hours sleep every night (the better they sleep, the better their immune systems fight viral infections and diseases).
    - The usage of Vitamins such as Vitamin B and C is highly recommended.
    - The usage of foods high in these vitamins and minerals are also highly recommended (lots of fruit and vegetables and less sweets, sugar and starch).
    - Children should drink at least 1 litre of water per day (room temperature).
    - Personal Hygiene and distancing forms part of any child's education. Parents are to start educating them as far as possible on this subject at home and we will continue at school. This will become our new way of living.
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- 3) **Access Control (At school)**
- Only parents and guardians to *accompany children to and from school, no parents or guardians will be allowed to enter the school without an appointment.*
  - A daily declaration will need to be completed and returned to school (these will be sent home in your child's note book).
  - Upon entering and exiting the school, hands of all people will be sanitized and temperatures will be taken and recorded. *Persons entering the school will need to make appointments.*
  - Individuals who are visibly sick and or not adhering to safety and preventative measures mentioned in this document, will not be allowed on the school premises.
  - Children with a relatively high fever of 37.5 or above will not be allowed onto the premises, and parents should follow the route of reporting it, by phoning the toll-free number 0800029999.
  - Should you receive a positive Covid – 19 test results, our school must be informed immediately. Allowing us to inform parents immediately.
- 4) **Masks/Shields**
- We have had a meeting with the Department of Health and they have allowed us to wear face Shields. This will enable children to run freely and breathe normally. Should you wish your child to wear both mask and shield, we do not mind. We do believe our children should be able to see us smile at them, and we want to be able to read stories with facial expressions.
- 5) **Transportation of children**
- The transportation of children to be resumed, depending on the decline of Covid – 19.
  - Once a drastic drop in the statistics is reported, parents will be informed and the transportation of children (library outings) will be resumed.
  - If the transportation is to be resumed, the implementation of serious hygiene measurements discussed and explained will be adhered to.
- 6) **Food**
- All food to be handled in line with hygiene measurements discussed.
  - Kitchen staff will be trained during the first week prior to re-opening and subsequent material/guidelines to be shared with all kitchen staff will be obtainable from us.
  - The risk of preparing food and dishing food to children will be handled with the greatest of care and treated accordingly.
  - Food coming to school will be sanitized. We ask for food in sealed packaging. All foods will be wiped/sanitized with sanitizer.
- 7) **The washing/cleaning of hands**
- Washing hands with a hand rub/soap or sanitizer will be instituted to all individuals entering and leaving the premises.
  - Regular and thoroughly cleaning of children and staffs hands with disinfectant/antiseptic soap and hot water will be instituted when:
    - Toilets are being used
    - Before meals
    - After meals
- 8) **Social distancing**
- Parents are required to explain to children the concept of social distancing.
  - At school, children will be educated in social distancing and spaciouly divided within their different classes.
  - It is advisable to maintain at least a 3 meter distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing and sneezing.
  - The One meter distance between individuals is the norm and should always be adhered to.
  - Hands should always be washed and sanitized after a sneeze or cough, and if necessary, the child be removed from the group and monitored for symptoms (in our quarantine area).
  - Children who are coughing and sneezing regularly or show a high fever will be removed from class, the parents will be contacted and requested not to bring the child to school unless tested and or assessed.
- 9) **Touching eyes, nose and mouth**
- Parents are required to upfront explain to children the concept of not touching the eyes, nose and mouth.
  - Children will be advised/educated at school not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth.

- 10) Respiratory Hygiene**
- Make sure you and the people around you are following good respiratory hygiene, covering your nose and mouth with a bent elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing.
  - The tissue used, should then immediately be disposed of.
  - Children will be asked/assisted to have their tissue paper handy for sneezing and coughing purposes. Tissues will be thrown into a "special bin" and disposed on a regular basis.
  - Hands will regularly be washed and sanitized after coughing and sneezing.
  - If a child has a fever, cough or difficulty breathing please report it on the toll free number. 0800029999.
- 11) The safe keeping of the facility**
- All staff, teachers and children will be encouraged to:
- Practice good personal hygiene on the premise.
  - Use other non-contact methods of greeting.
  - Clean hands by washing with hot water and antibacterial/antiseptic soap and sanitizing hands at regular intervals.
  - Create habits and remind children to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes.
  - Classes, toilets and all other facilities at school will be disinfected regularly.
  - Ventilation will be increased by opening windows.
  - Increase space between children during the day.
  - Educational classes will be incorporated at school.
- 12) Setting an example**
- Parents are urged to remember that setting the correct example to the children is providing the correct results at the end of the day.
  - It is very important to remember that children are looking up to adults for guidance or how to react to stressful events.
  - Parents should re-assure children that health officials nationally and that staff at school are working hard to ensure that adults and children stay safe.
  - Teaching children positive preventive measures, talking to them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety.
  - Our school is adapting our programme to incorporate the required information and facts around the Corona (Covid-19) virus.

What specific guidelines are recommended in this regard?

- Remain calm and familiarize yourself with the latest facts..
- Children will react and they will follow your verbal and non-verbal reactions
- What you say and do about the virus, current prevention efforts and related events can either increase or decrease your children's anxiety.
- Emphasize and reassure your children, that they and your family are fine.
- Remind them that you and the adults at school are there to keep them safe and healthy.
- Allow children to talk about their feelings and help re frame their concerns into reality and perspective.
- Children may need extra attention from you and may want to talk about their concerns, fears and questions they might have.
- Bullying and or negative comments made toward others should be stopped and should be reported to the school.
- Be aware of any comments that other adults are having around your family. You may need to explain what comments mean if they are different than the values you have at home.
- Engage your child in games or other interesting activities.
- Maintain a normal routine and keep to a regular schedule, this can be re-assuring and promotes physical health.
- Encourage your children to keep up with their daily work and extra-curricular activities, but don't push them if they seem overwhelmed.
- In the absence of information, children often imagine situations far worse than what they really are.
- Don't ignore their concerns, but rather explain that for now a relatively small percentage of the population are infected.
- If we stick to the basics, avoid touching surfaces or objects unnecessary, protect ourselves by adhering to the hygiene rules and regulations, we will be fine.

13)

**Symptoms**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Stuffy nose
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Chills
- Red Eyes
- For some people the symptoms are just like the common cold. For others it is life threatening. In either case it is important to check with your healthcare provider and to follow instructions about staying at home or away from public spaces.

14)

**Communications**

For any additional information or the reporting of possible Covid 19 infections please contact the number 08/00029999. If no response, contact your doctor. Stay aware of the latest information. We would also like to stress that despite all protocols, the children will also have as normal, a fun filled safe days at school.

Yours Sincerely

JD Dearman  
Owner

I \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian/Staff Member of Jean's Playglen acknowledge receipt of the policy document submitted and implemented, with immediate effect. I also acknowledge that due to the Pandemic, any medical certificates required will be submitted on the return to school (should my child be sent home with a fever)

We also accept that the Educators and Staff at Jean's Playglen are not Medical Practitioners and are caring for our child (name) \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Group, to the best of their abilities.

Date \_\_\_\_\_