

## CORONAVIRUS POLICY

### POLICY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**Title:** Coronavirus Policy

**Identifier:** CS\_4.1

**Date of Last Review:** August 2020

**Status:** Non Statutory

**Committee:** Leadership

**Leadership Lead:** CEO/Principal

**Review Process:** As Required

**Location:** Website

**Reviewed and approved:** August 2020

## Policy on Covid-19 (coronavirus) – as at August 2020

We are all aware that, based on the World Health Organisation's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern.

GEMS World Academy (GWA) takes the health and safety of all of their students, staff, parents, carers, Governors and other stakeholders very seriously. We continue to follow the regular advice from the Government and World Health Organisation (WHO) and will update our policy and act accordingly as advice changes.

The Academy will fully open from August and all events associated with Academy life are planned to take place as normal. The transmission of Covid-19 is not yet fully understood, however, it is thought that it can be transmitted from human to human through close contact and that transmission is via large respiratory droplets, and by direct and indirect contact with respiratory secretions.

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to testing to arrange. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If you are not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19 you also must self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the day the test was taken. If you develop symptoms during this isolation period, you must restart your 10-day isolation from the day you develop symptoms.

After 10 days, if you still have a temperature you should continue to self-isolate and seek medical advice. You do not need to self-isolate after 10 days if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. See the ending isolation section below for more information.

If you live with others, all other household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they must stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms

appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period. The ending isolation section below has more information.

If you have symptoms, try and stay as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important to stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you share a household.

Reduce the spread of infection in your home by washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, and cover coughs and sneezes.

Consider alerting people who you do not live with and have had close contact within the last 48 hours to let them know you have symptoms of COVID-19.

### **Ending Self-Isolation**

If you have had symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test, then you may end your self-isolation after 10 days and return to your normal routine if you do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. If you still have a high temperature, keep self-isolating until your temperature returns to normal and seek medical advice.

After 10 days, if you just have a cough or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you do not need to continue to self-isolate. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when you first became ill.

### **Ending household isolation**

After 10 days, if the first person to become ill feels better and no longer has symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste they can return to their normal routine.

If you live with others, then everyone else in the household who remains well should end their isolation after 14 days. This 14-day period starts from the day the first person in the household became ill. People in the household who remain well after 14 days are unlikely to be infectious.

If anyone in the household becomes unwell during the 14-day period, they should arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19 – go to testing to arrange. If their test result is positive, they must follow the same advice for people with COVID-19 symptoms – that is, after 10 days of their symptoms starting, if they feel better and no longer have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste – they can also return to their normal routine. However, if their test result is negative, they must continue with isolation as part of the household for the full 14 days.

Should someone develop COVID-19 symptoms late in the 14-day household isolation period (for example, on day 10 or later) the isolation period for the rest of the household does not need to be extended. Only the person with new COVID-19 symptoms has to stay at home for at least a further 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19 - go to testing to arrange.

At the end of the 14-day period, anyone in the household who has not become unwell can return to their normal routine.

### Precautions

In conjunction with our community, we are taking certain precautions to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus.

#### Public areas

Sanitiser dispensers are being made available in reception and areas where students and staff eat. Catch it, bin it, kill it posters have been put up in all washrooms to serve as a reminder to all. These posters emphasise the importance of individuals washing their hands regularly. There is also a poster displayed in both the main Academy reception area and the Sports reception area outlining important guidance for all visitors to read.

#### Visitors

To reduce the risk of the virus spreading, the Academy is operating a strict limited visitor policy. The only visitors allowed on site are with the express permission of the CEO / Principal, and this permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

#### Gatherings and Events

Gatherings and events are not permitted during this time to enable us to minimise transmission of Coronavirus. If extra curricular opportunities are scheduled, there will be a strict policy applied to collection of students. If any sport fixtures are scheduled to take place there will be no opportunities to spectate.

The Academy hires its facilities for use by external bodies, such as external coaches and after school clubs/activities, abiding to both KHDA and Dubai Sports Council guidelines. The Academy works with providers ensuring consideration has been taken to ensure that they operate within the wider protective measures and have regard for the relevant government guidance.

#### [KHDA Protocols for Reopening of Private Schools in Dubai](#)

#### [Dubai Sports Council Resuming Sports Activities in Dubai](#)

The Academy is able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for extra – curricular sports activities. These external providers must provide both the Trade License and Dubai Sports Council Final Approval Certificate to operate onsite. The Academy must carefully consider how such arrangements can operate within our wider protective measures.

The Academy can continue to provide extra-curricular sport so long as we:

- Maintain the integrity of the Academy's Covid19 protocols such as bubbles, staffing and social distancing
- Is subject to appropriate risk assessment
- Ensure providers hold the Dubai Sports Council Final Approval Certificates

- Competitions and tournaments should not take place in line with the wider sports restrictions placed on schools by KHDA
- To minimise the numbers of provider staff entering the Academy site, we will continue to work with a small number of sports providers and request the same provider staff, agreeing a minimum number of hours access to the site.
- We will agree a process for drop off and collection, including that gathering at the Security Gate 1 and coming onto the Academy site to spectate is not allowed.

The Academy will continue to abide by the latest protocols and guidelines set out by KHDA and Dubai Sports Council in relation to extra curricular provision.

#### Cleaning schedule

The Academy already has a robust cleaning schedule in place however an enhanced schedule is being put in place to regularly disinfect high volume touch points such as door handles, light switches, stair rails, lift call buttons and ledges throughout the Academy day.

#### Potentially infected individuals

Should anyone attending the Academy, either in the capacity of staff, student or visitor, start to exhibit any signs of infection by the coronavirus, they will be given a protective face mask and surgical gloves to wear and directed to a designated isolation room within the Academy.

Immediate advice would then be sought from the relevant service. A record of the patient plus any staff, students or visitors having contact with the patient will be kept and staff will be asked to email HR to advise them of contact so a record can be kept confidentially. The

#### Quarantine period

In line with the guidance, the Academy will introduce the current recommended quarantine period as outlined in the Government website.

The Academy closely monitors the guidance provided by the [MHP](#) and we will keep you informed of any action to take should it be required.

In the meantime, as a precaution we encourage everyone to keep following our hygiene practices:

- Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub;
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue;
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms;
- Avoid unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals; and
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs

As the advice changes frequently to support residents of the UAE, GWA will continue to follow the guidance issued by the [MHP](#). We will also follow guidance issued by the WHO <https://www.who.int/>

#### Planning / ongoing

- Educational Visits - all risk assessments to be updated with controls regarding coronavirus. Staff to consider the number of members of the public students will be exposed to and environments that may present a greater risk of exposure to the virus than their everyday routine. Hygiene controls must also be included. Visits will be looked at on a case by case basis
- We have created a standalone contingency plan based on guidance we've received and continue to receive
- Staff are reminded to ensure they can access and effectively use [Phoenix Classroom](#) in the event of another closure

Latest guidance can be found here:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://doh.gov.ae/>