

Unlocking the Potential of Every Child

Return to school after COVID-19 Policy

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1.0 Scope

The scope of this document is to manage the return to school of pupils and staff suspected and/or with confirmed COVID-19.

2.0 Purpose

At Safa British School, we aim to ensure the best practices to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 infection in our school.

3.0 Definitions

Term	Definition
COVID -19	A disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. ‘CO’ stands for corona, ‘VI’ for virus and ‘D’ for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as ‘2019 novel coronavirus’ or ‘2019-nCoV.’ The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.
COVID-19 Test - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	The standard test for the detection of the virus that causes COVID19. It tests for the virus’ genetic material, and a positive test detects at least two genes. The test is generally done from a swab taken from the nasopharynx.
Confirmed COVID-19	A person with a positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result for COVID-19 infection that is reported by an approved laboratory, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.
COVID-19 Recovered	A patient who completed the specified isolation period, with no symptoms or fever (afebrile without antipyretics) ($\geq 37.50^{\circ}\text{C}$) for a minimum of three consecutive days immediately before intended discharge.
COVID-19 Close Contact:	A person who is coming to close proximity of less than 2 meters, for a period that is more than 15 minutes (working, studying, or a family member) with a confirmed COVID-19 case, starting from 2 days before the onset of symptoms in the confirmed case and/or throughout the duration of illness.

4. Return to School Criteria:

Asymptomatic COVID-19 positive patients:

- Time-based strategy
 - 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
 - No need for 14 days home quarantine after discharge

Mild symptomatic COVID-19 positive patients either:

- Symptom-based strategy:
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and,
 - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) in the last 3 consecutive days (72 hours).

Test-based strategy:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) with at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).
- No need for 14 days home quarantine after discharge

Moderate, severe, and critical symptomatic hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients:

- Test-based strategy:
 - Patient can be discharged once they have:
 - Two consecutive respiratory specimens negative tests for COVID 19 that are ≥ 24 hours apart
 - Patient is afebrile for more than 3 days without the use of fever reducing medications
 - Patient has improved/minimal respiratory symptoms
 - Pulmonary imaging (CXR/ HRCT) shows significant improvement
 - All patients after discharge should be self-isolated at home for 7 days from discharge date and to have a sick leave documented in medical record
 - Discharged patients to be followed in the clinic in the hospital after 2 weeks, unless patient develops respiratory symptoms to attend earlier.
 - If asymptomatic at 2 weeks, no more follow up

Close Contact:

- All close contacts should undergo home quarantine for 10 days after last exposure even if they have been tested and their result is negative, and they should self-monitor for any respiratory symptoms.
- Contacts who develop any related symptoms during the 10 days quarantine should be tested for COVID

- On arrival back to school, staff/children must attend the school clinic before going to class where the physician/nurse will conduct a final assessment before allowing the child/staff to resume learning activities.

5. NOTIFYING PARENTS OF CLOSE CONTACTS BY EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC SETTINGS

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS

Safa British School

Dated: dd/mm/year

Dear Parents/Guardians of: _____

Student full name, Gender, D.O.B, Grade, Nationality, Emirates ID, Date of start of quarantine period, Date to resume school if free of symptoms:

Greetings from the school administration. We would like to notify you that a (insert student/staff has tested positive for COVID-19 at Safa British School. The DHA investigation team conducted an immediate investigation. In addition, your child was identified to have been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case in school. We would like to reassure you that we are implementing comprehensive preventive measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, and your child's health and well-being as well as those around them is our

main concern.

As part of the standard pro-active precautionary Management of COVID-19 in Education and Academic Settings Page 52 of 63 Ref. No. HRS/HPSD/MC19EAS/V3/2020 measures to ensure the health and well-being of all students and staff, we ask those who were in contact with the positive case to follow the below strict measures:

1. Your child must remain in home quarantine for 14 days from the start date of quarantine period (as highlighted in the table above).
2. Please keep your child at home, limiting physical contact with people inside and outside the household, for a period of 14 days.
3. Please maintain strong personal, hand hygiene and cough etiquette in your household –this includes cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects & surfaces.
4. Your child will be provided by their school with virtual/distance learning during the period of the quarantine.
5. Your child will be allowed to return to school only after the completion of the quarantine period and being free from symptoms, as per the table above.
6. Students in quarantine nasal swab PCR test is not indicated or required unless the students develop signs and symptoms but completion of 14 days' quarantine is mandatory.
7. Throughout this period, please diligently monitor your child for any respiratory symptoms (sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, fever, etc.)
8. If any symptoms developed during this period, please seek immediate medical advice from a healthcare facility and present this letter as proof that your child was in contact with a positive COVID-19 case.
9. Before returning to school, the school physician/nurse, will do a distant check up to ensure that your child does not have any symptoms and is in good health. This will be done one to two days before re-joining the school.

If your child is given clearance during the distant check-up, he/she may return to school on the return date specified above. On arrival to school, they must attend the school clinic before going into class where the physician/nurse will conduct a final assessment before allowing the child to resume learning activities at the school. Please bear in mind that each of us is responsible in preventing the spread of panic, rumors or misinformation. It is important that you do not circulate this letter to anyone outside your family to prevent unnecessary panic.

For any inquiries, please contact the School Clinic on 04 3884300. If you require further support, contact the DHA help-line on 800588.

Your cooperation and support in maintaining stringent prevention & control measures during this period is highly appreciated.

Kind regards