



BARATARIA NORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL
COVID 19
GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The outbreak of corona virus disease (COVID-19) has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and the virus has now spread to many countries and territories. While a lot is still unknown about the virus that causes COVID-19, we do know that it is transmitted through direct contact via respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Additionally, individuals can also be infected from touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth). While COVID-19 continues to spread it is important that communities take action to prevent further transmission, reduce the impacts of the outbreak and support control measures.

The protection of children and educational facilities is particularly important. Precautions are necessary to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in school settings; however, care must also be taken to avoid stigmatizing students and staff who may have been exposed to the virus. It is important to remember that COVID-19 does not differentiate between borders, ethnicities, disability status, age or gender. Measures taken by the schools can prevent the spread of COVID-19 by students and staff who may have been exposed to the virus, while minimizing disruption and protecting students and staff from discrimination.

SYMPTOMS

The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that, COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate symptoms and recover without hospitalization. Some of the most common symptoms persons will display are:

- Fever.
- Dry cough.
- Tiredness.

Less Common Symptoms:

- Aches and pains.
- Sore throat.
- Diarrhea.
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eyes).
- Headache.
- Loss of taste and/or smell.
- A rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes.

Serious Symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- Chest pain or pressure.
- Loss of speech or movement.

But we must also keep in mind that the Delta Variant (New Variant) originally discovered in India is now spreading around the world, becoming the dominant strain in some countries. It also appears to be provoking a different range of symptoms. These symptoms seem to present, at first like a cold with:

- Runny nose.
- Sore throat
- Upper respiratory infection symptoms.
- Loss of smell.

- Persistent cough and Shortness of breath.

Entry Protocol

All persons entering the school compound must:

- Wear a mask on entry, (**No Mask No Entry**)
- Sanitize or wash their hands
- Have their temperature checked and recorded (**for contact tracing**)
- **Wear a mask at all times whilst on the school compound.**

Basic Principles to Minimize the Spread of Covid 19

Adhering to the following basic principles can ensure students, teachers, and staff maintain a safe environment and minimize the spread of Covid-19.

Recommendations for a healthy/safe school environment are as follows:

1. Sanitizing: - Sanitizing stations have been installed at both entrances to the school compound inclusive of face basins, running water, soap and hand towels.
2. Additional soap and tissue dispensers have been installed above the face sinks located in the quadrangle along with all male and female washrooms.
3. All persons (i.e. students, teachers, none teaching staff, auxiliary staff and visitors) whilst on the school compound, in classrooms, staffroom, offices or any other room or moving around the school compound must wear a face mask.
4. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO MOVE AROUND WITHOUT A FACE MASK.**
5. Sick students, teachers and other staff are advised to remain at home. Additionally, anyone displaying signs and symptoms (runny nose, high temperature, sneezing and or coughing) will not be allowed on the compound.
6. BNSS' policy seeks to encourage all to regularly engage in the practice of hand washing with water and soap, the use of alcohol rub /hand sanitizer or chlorine solution.

7. BNSS promotes **social distancing**, as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and implemented by the Ministry of Health. (a term applied to certain actions that are taken to slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease, including limiting large groups of people coming together).
8. Social Distancing Markers: markers have been placed on the floor of the cafeteria and the school feeding area at the recommended distance of 6ft intervals.
9. Furniture: All classroom furniture has been placed at the recommended 6ft distance. Additionally, the number of students per classroom would be guided by the Ministry of Health's guideline.
10. General Floor Markers: Students, Teachers, Non-Teaching staff and Visitors **must** observe and use the spatial floor markers placed for social distancing at the school entrance and maintain social distancing whilst on the compound.
11. Rooms must be well ventilated. Where there are no windows, air conditioning units must be in good working order and cleaned regularly.

All sanitizing stations would be identified using a red star  and the quarantine and sick room with a blue star  on the site map.

Public Health Actions Whilst at Barataria North Secondary.

School Administration should encourage students and staff to engage in **health-promoting behaviours** that minimize illnesses. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Washing of hands multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing and the disposing of used tissue immediately.
- The prohibition of the use of wash rags on the compound.
- Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- No sharing of food or drinks.

- No sharing of cell phones.
- No hugging is allowed.
- No gathering in crowds as stipulated in the Ministry of Health Guidelines.
- No handshakes are allowed; instead give elbow bumps.
- Encouraging students and staff members to eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, and exercise regularly to help them develop strong immune systems capable of fighting against illness.
- Any teacher, non-teaching staff or student who has medical condition that can present flu-like symptoms (including but not limited to: allergies, asthma, hay fever, sinusitis, etc.) must present medical documentation before being allowed into the school compound.

Emergency Response Team

Listed below are the members of the Emergency Response Personnel

Mr. Stephen Scott
Ms. Natasha Wright Fairley
Ms. Lu-Ann Christian
Ms. Ester Ramkhalawan

Emergency Response Protocol

If anyone whilst on the school compound is identified as exhibiting flu like symptoms or is feeling unwell,

1. **That person is advised to stay where they are** and have someone make contact with any member of the Emergency Response Team, and
2. **All other persons** in the same room/area are to stay in the room/area until a member of the Emergency Response Team has cleared them to leave the room/area.

PS: Any person that is showing flu like systems whilst on the school compound would be housed in the quarantine room until they can be collected by a family member, parent, guardian or the Emergency Health Services.

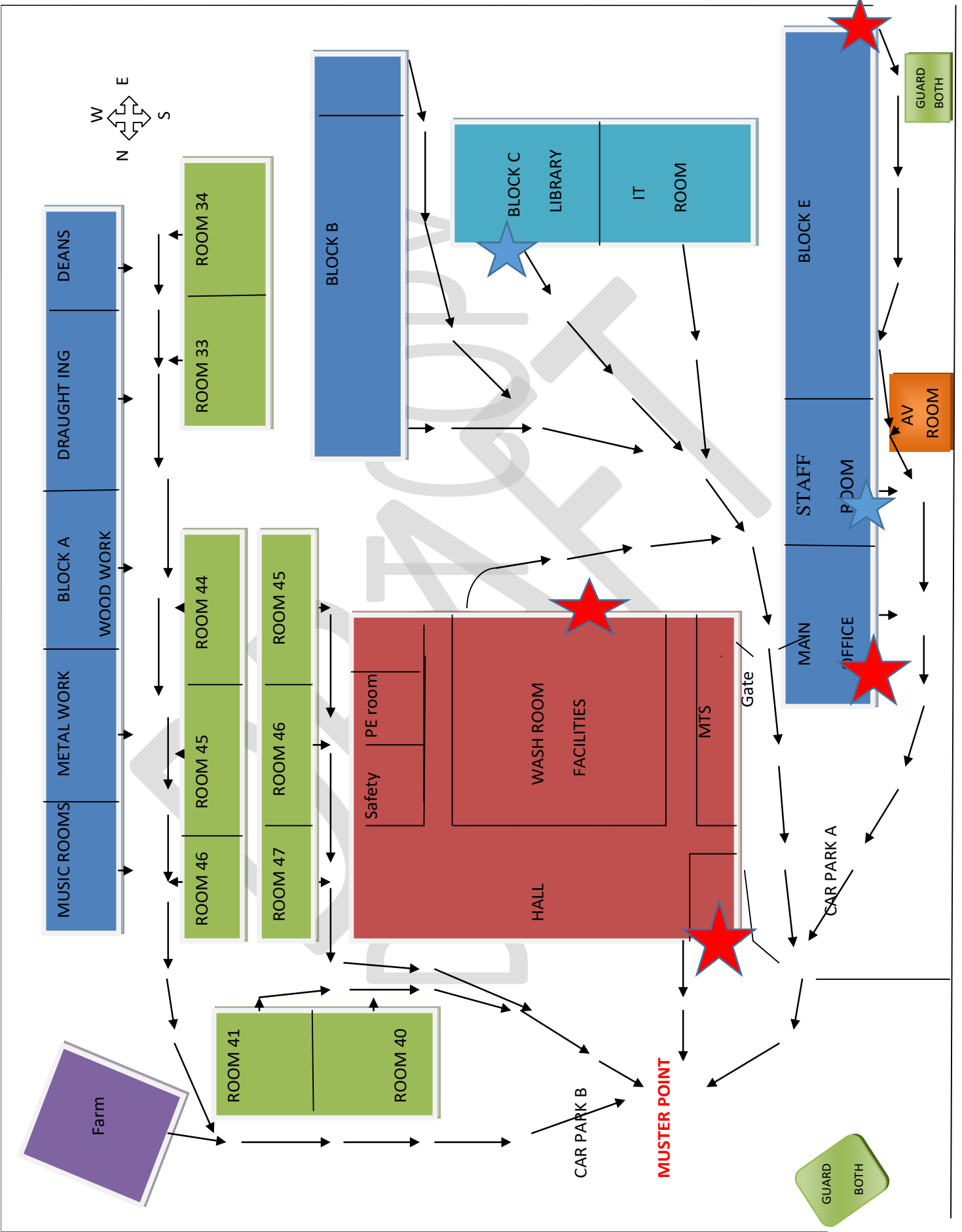
The parent/guardian or family member would be advised to immediately collect the child/adult and remove them from the school compound. If unable to do so, the Emergency Health Services

will render the service and the child/adult will be taken to the appropriate hospital. If it is a child, he/she must be accompanied by a responsible adult i.e. form teacher, HOD member, subject teacher, vice principal and/or principal.

Visitors

Visitors to the school compound should be kept to a minimum and would be accepted by appointment only, with a maximum of only (3) three persons allowed to enter the main office at a time.

The Management and staff of Barataria North Secondary remains committed to ensure the Health Safety and well-being of students, teachers, non-teaching staff and visitors during this pandemic period.



References

- I. Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health Website. www.health.gov.tt
- II. World Health Organization Website https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1
- III. Ministry of Education Guidelines for the reopening of school (2020)