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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policy

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, which has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and which now has cases of transmission in South Africa, it has become necessary for Oasis Haven to put strict policies in place in order to protect our children, staff and our wider Oasis Haven family.

As this is a new virus and there is currently no herd immunity, everyone is susceptible to this virus. For this reason, unusual and proportionate measures need to be taken to prevent the worst-case scenario. Additional measures may need to be introduced in future depending on how the virus spreads in the coming weeks or months.

As we care for children, some of whom have compromised immune systems, we need to be exceptionally careful with how we approach this pandemic. A decision has thus been taken to rather act aggressively from the beginning, rather than to regret not acting later on.

Our policy is based on the recommendations made by President Cyril Ramaphosa and the national government, WHO and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), as well as our experience in caring for our children over the years.

Children

- Children to stay home from school as per government regulations. When schools re-open, our children will return.
- All extramural activities are cancelled until further notice.
- All play dates are cancelled until further notice.
- All volunteer interaction is cancelled until further notice.
- No birthday parties will be attended by our children during this time.
- Children are to be educated on appropriate handwashing and hygiene during this time and caregivers are to ensure that these principles are put into practice within our Family Homes.
- Essential medical services, such as Tara, HIV clinic, vaccinations, dentist appointments, etc. will continue as normal.
- Children will not attend church during this time.

Board Directors: T. Oberholster (Chairman), C. Reyneke, B. Beukes (MD), D. Harbour, I. Achiume, T. Meyer

Company Registration Number: 2001/022477/08

Section 18A Number: 18/11/13/4329

PBO Number: 130004329

NPO Number: 021-289-NPO

- If a child displays any flu-like symptoms, they are to be quarantined within the house.
- If there are concerns that they may be showing COVID-19 symptoms, management needs to be informed immediately and the COVID-19 hotline will be contacted at once.
- All children to receive the regular flu vaccination as usual.
- Children to be educated on COVID-19 by the social work team.
- Court dates will remain the same and be attended by children where required.

Staff

- Staff to move to working one week on one week off to minimise use of public transport.
- If this gets to a critical level, they will work one month on one month off.
- Staff are to practice social distancing while off duty.
- Staff to wash hands immediately (for a minimum of 20 seconds, with soap and water) on entering the house and do so regularly throughout the day, especially before food preparation, after changing nappies, coughing, wiping noses, using the bathroom, or helping children to do any of the aforementioned. Hand sanitiser will be provided.
- Staff to ensure that surfaces, toys and bedding are sanitised and washed regularly.
- All staff training is cancelled.
- All staff meetings are cancelled.
- Staff will not attend church with the children during this time.
- If a staff member displays any flu-like symptoms they are to immediately inform management, be booked off sick and not return to work until they are no longer ill.
- Sick leave days will be taken, but if people run out of sick leave we will continue to pay them in full.
- All staff to receive the regular flu vaccination as usual.
- Staff to be educated on COVID-19 by the social work team.

Management / Office Staff

- If anyone displays any flu-like symptoms they are to stay at home.
- If staff are able to work from home, they can do so until they are no longer ill.
- If the cases get to a critical level, all office staff will work from home and will only come in when necessary and in cases of emergency.

- No face-to-face meetings will be held with external people, including donors, partners, volunteers, suppliers, etc. All meetings will be held telephonically or digitally.
- Sick leave days will be taken if staff are booked off, but if employees run out of sick leave we will continue to pay them in full.
- Management to exercise handwashing and hygiene principals during this time.
- No training will take place during this time.
- Management to practice social distancing when not at work.
- All management to receive the regular flu vaccination as usual.
- Court dates to be attended as per usual.

Board

- Board meetings to be held online until further notice.

Volunteers

- No volunteers will be allowed to visit the homes.
- No volunteers will be allowed to take children out during this time.

Outings

- All outings will be cancelled during this time.
- No new outings will be arranged until further notice.

Donors

- No face-to-face donor meetings will take place.
- No donor tours of the homes to take place.
- The only donations in kind that will be accepted during this time will be consumable goods, such as food, cleaning materials and toiletries.
- No jumble sales will be held during this time.

Biological Families

- All visits will be cancelled until further notice.
- Only telephonic contact will be allowed.