



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

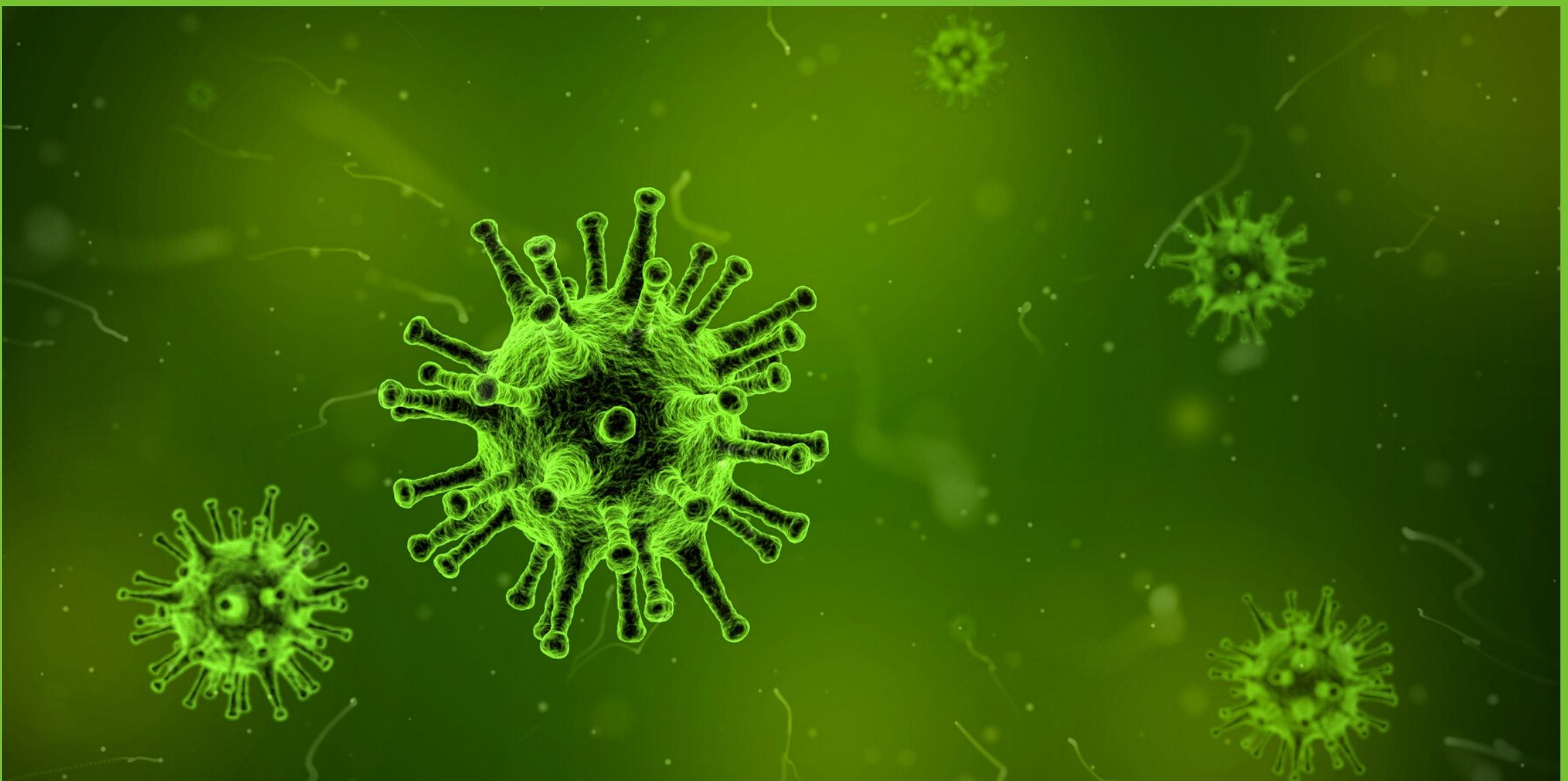


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SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

TEACHERS SUPPORT GUIDE ON COVID 19

Who is the guide for?

This guide is for all teachers, learners, school administrators, district officials, parents and all stakeholders in education.



What should schools be doing?

Basic principles

Following basic principles can help keep learners, teachers, and staff safe at school and help stop the spread of this disease. Recommendations for healthy schools are:

- Sick students, teachers and other staff should not come to school
- Schools should enforce regular hand washing with safe water and soap, alcohol rub/hand sanitizer or chlorine solution and, at a minimum, daily disinfection and cleaning of school surfaces
- Schools should provide water, sanitation and waste management facilities and follow environmental cleaning and decontamination procedures
- Schools should promote social distancing (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)

Why is the guide issued?

Our learners are all global citizens who are agents of change and who are the next generation of teachers, doctors, caregivers and scientist.

This crisis like any other crisis affords us the opportunity to learn, grow, show compassion, extend a helping hand and increase resilience which builds a safer and caring community, which shows ubuntu.

Having an increase of knowledge and facts about COVID-19 will lessen learners fears and anxieties around the disease which will help them cope

Having information and facts about COVID-19 will help diminish learners' and teachers fears and anxieties around the disease which will help them cope with any other fears which might impact their lives.

This guidance provides key messages and considerations for engaging school administrators, teachers and staff, parents, caregivers and community members, as well as children themselves in promoting safe and healthy schools

Why is the guide issued?

The purpose of this document is to provide clear and actionable guidance for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in schools and other educational facilities. Teachers can encourage learners to become advocates for disease prevention and control at home, in school, and in their community by talking to others about how to prevent the spread of viruses. Maintaining safe school operations or reopening schools after a closure requires many considerations but, if done well, can promote public health.

Know the latest facts

Understand basic information about coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including its symptoms, complications, how it is transmitted and how to prevent transmission. Stay informed about COVID-19 through reputable sources such as UNICEF, WHO and national health ministry advisories. Be aware of fake information/myths that may circulate by word-of-mouth or online.

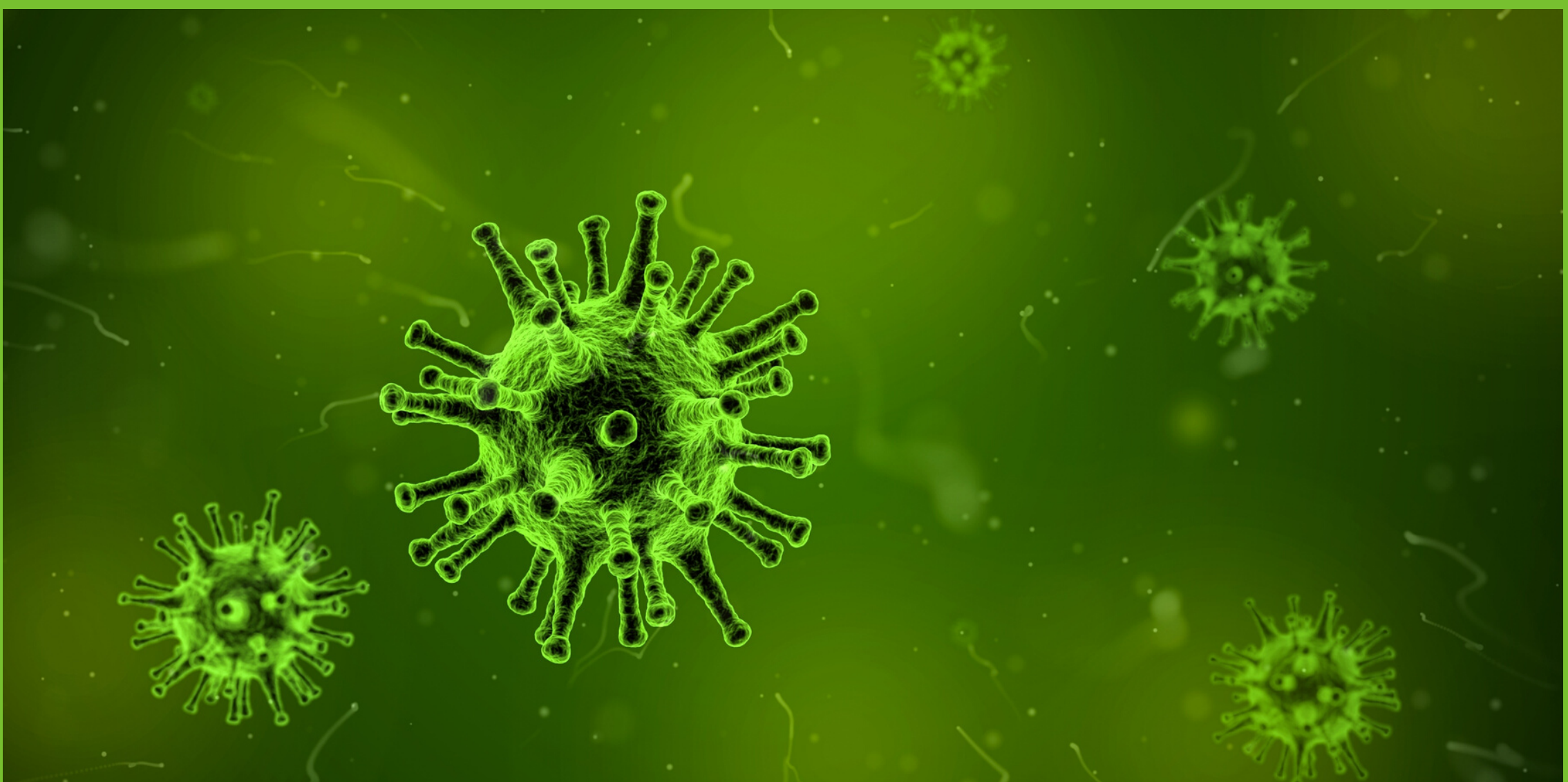
Why schools should respond to Covid-19?

The outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and the virus has now spread across the globe.

While a lot is still unknown about the virus that causes COVID-19, we do know that it is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing)

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.



Why schools should respond to Covid-19?

The protection of children and educational facilities is particularly important due to the social interaction of learners and teachers.

Precautions are necessary to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in the school environment, however, care must also be taken to avoid

stigmatizing learners 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. The Education environment should continue to be welcoming, respectful, inclusive, and supportive environments to all.

Measures taken by schools can prevent the entry and 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.

How should schools prepare and respond to Covid-19?

Ensure safe school operations

Update or develop school emergency and contingency plans. Work with officials to guarantee schools are not used as shelters, treatment units, etc. Consider cancelling any community events/meetings that usually take place on school premises, based on risk.

Reinforce frequent hand washing and sanitation and procure needed supplies. Prepare and maintain hand washing stations with soap and water, and if possible, place alcohol-based hand rub (hand sanitizers) in each classroom, at entrances and exits, and near tuck shops and toilets.

Clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms and especially water and sanitation facilities at least once a day, particularly surfaces that are touched by many people (railings, lunch tables, door and window handles, toys, smartboards, teaching and learning aids etc.)

How should schools prepare and respond to Covid-19?

Implement social distancing practices that may include:

- Staggering the beginning and end of the school day
- Cancelling assemblies, sports games, extra mural activities and other events that create crowded conditions
- When possible, create space for children's desks to be at least 1,2 -1,5 metres apart
- Teach and model creating space and avoiding unnecessary touching.

Coordinate and follow guidelines from the National Health Department and Education authorities.

Share known information with staff, caregivers and learners, providing updated information on the disease situation, including prevention and control efforts at school.

Reinforce that caregivers should alert the school and health care authorities if someone in their home has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and keep their child at home. Utilize parent-teacher committees and other mechanisms to promote information sharing. Also be sure to address learner's questions and concerns, including through the development of child-friendly materials such as posters which can be placed on notice boards, in bathrooms, and other central locations.

How should schools prepare and respond to Covid-19?

Develop flexible attendance and sick leave policies that encourage learners and staff to stay home when sick or when caring for sick family members.

Discourage the use of perfect attendance awards and incentives.

Identify critical job functions and positions, and plan for alternative coverage by cross training staff.

Adapt to the changes in school calendar as per GDE communique.

Monitor school attendance

Implement school absenteeism monitoring systems to track learner and staff absence and compare against usual absenteeism patterns at the school. The principals must inform the local health authorities and Department about large increases in learner and staff absenteeism due to respiratory illnesses

How should schools prepare and respond to Covid-19?

Plan for ongoing of learning

In the case of absenteeism/sick leave or temporary school closures, support continued access to quality education. This can include:

- Use of online/e-learning strategies
- Assigning reading and exercises for home study
- Radio, podcast or television broadcasts of academic content
- Assigning teachers to conduct remote daily or weekly follow up with learners
- Review/develop accelerated education strategies

Implement targeted health education in Life Orientation classes

Integrate disease prevention and control in daily activities and lessons.

Ensure content is age-, gender-, ethnicity-, and disability-responsive and activities are built into existing subjects.

- Ensure that the school have a dedicated quarantine room

How should the school prepare and respond to Covid-19?

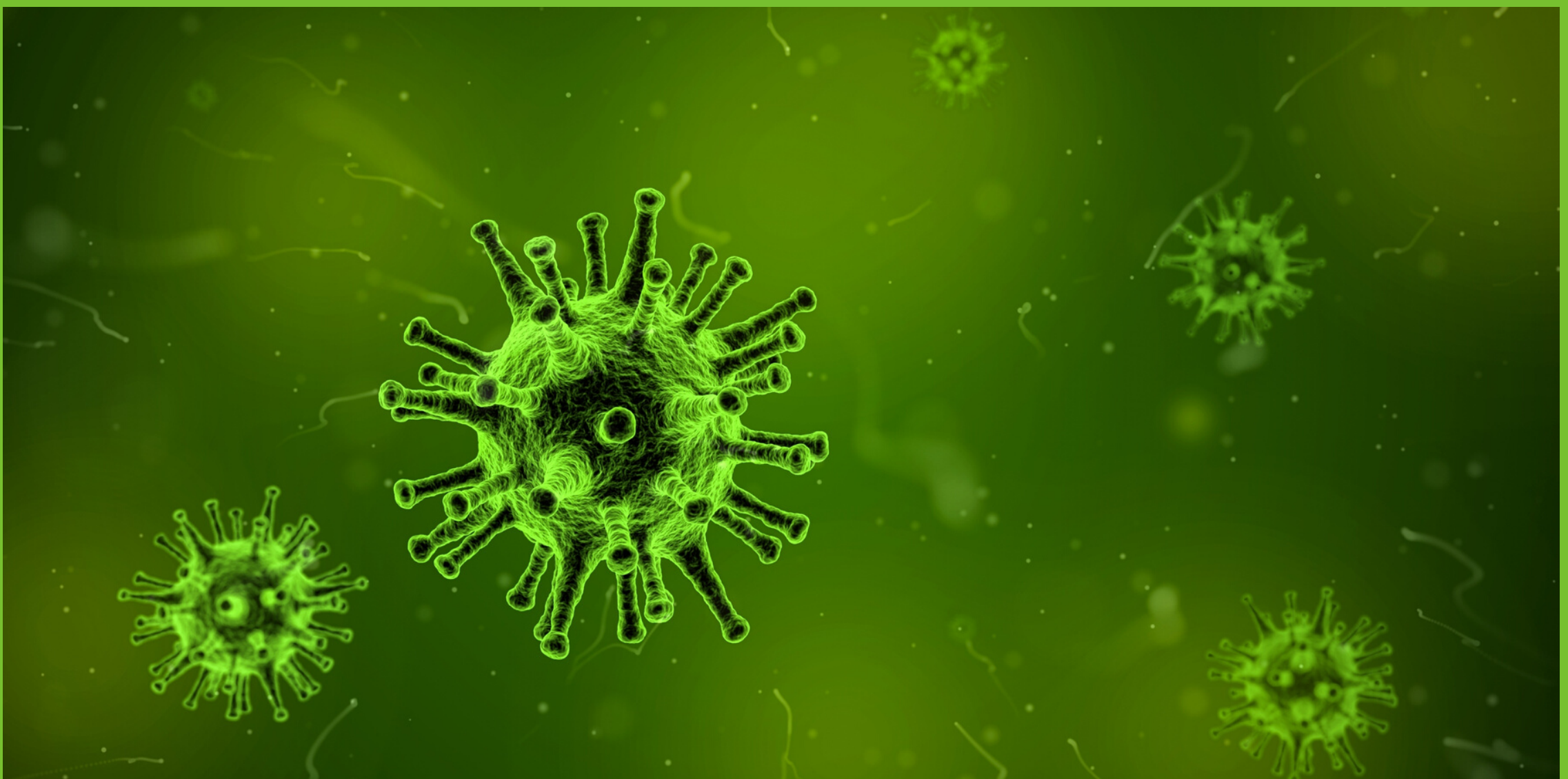
Encourage children to discuss their questions and concerns. Explain it is normal that they may experience different reactions and encourage them to talk to teachers if they have any questions or concerns.

Provide information in an honest, age-appropriate manner.

Guide learners on how to support their peers and prevent exclusion and bullying.

Ensure teachers are aware of local resources for their own well-being.

Work with school health workers/social workers (Psychosocial Support Services) to identify and support learners and staff who exhibit signs of distress.



How should schools prepare and respond to Covid-19?

Support vulnerable populations

Work with social service systems to ensure continuity of critical services that may take place in schools such as health screenings, feeding programs or therapies for children with special needs.

Consider the

specific needs of children with disabilities, and how marginalized populations may be more acutely impacted by the illness or its secondary effects.

Examine any specific implications for learners that may increase their risk, such as responsibility for taking care of the sick at home, or exploitation when out of school.

Facts

About Covid -19

The virus is transmitted mainly via respiratory droplets when people sneeze, cough, or exhale.

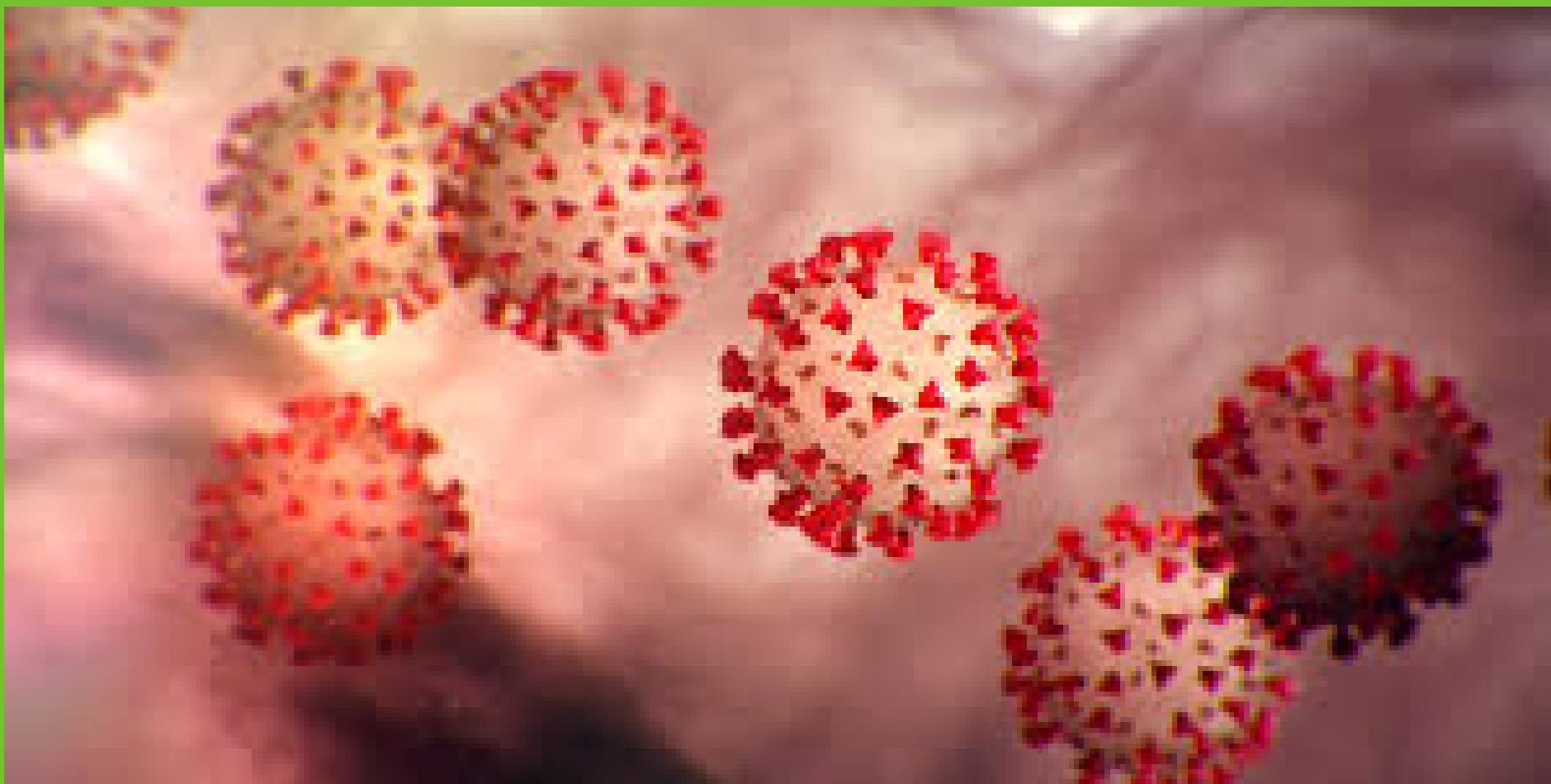
The virus can survive on surfaces such as tables, door handles, and equipment for several hours to a few days.

The virus is not airborne but all the surfaces where the droplets land, are infectious.

The virus is transmitted through the nose and mouth via your hands or an infected cough or sneezes onto or into your nose or mouth.

Click on the image below to view the video.

Length: 1:30



Facts

About Covid -19

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is 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 as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. These symptoms are similar to the flu (influenza) or the common cold, which are a lot more common than COVID-19. This is why testing is required to confirm if someone has COVID-19.

Facts

About Covid -19

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from and touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth). The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it.

Who is most at risk?

We are learning more about how COVID-19 affects people every day. Older people, and people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, appear to be more at risk of developing severe symptoms. As this is a new virus, we are still learning about how it affects children. We know it is possible for people of any age to be infected with the virus, but so far there are relatively few cases of COVID-19 reported among children. This is a new virus and we need to learn more about how it affects children. The virus can be fatal in rare cases, so far mainly among older people with pre-existing medical conditions.

Facts

About Covid -19

What is the treatment for COVID-19?

There is no currently available vaccine for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated and getting early care from a healthcare provider can make the disease less dangerous. There are several clinical trials that are being conducted to evaluate potential therapeutics for COVID-19.

How can the spread of COVID-19 be slowed down or prevented?

As with other respiratory infections like the flu or the common cold, public health measures are critical to slow the spread of illnesses. Public health measures are everyday preventive actions that include:

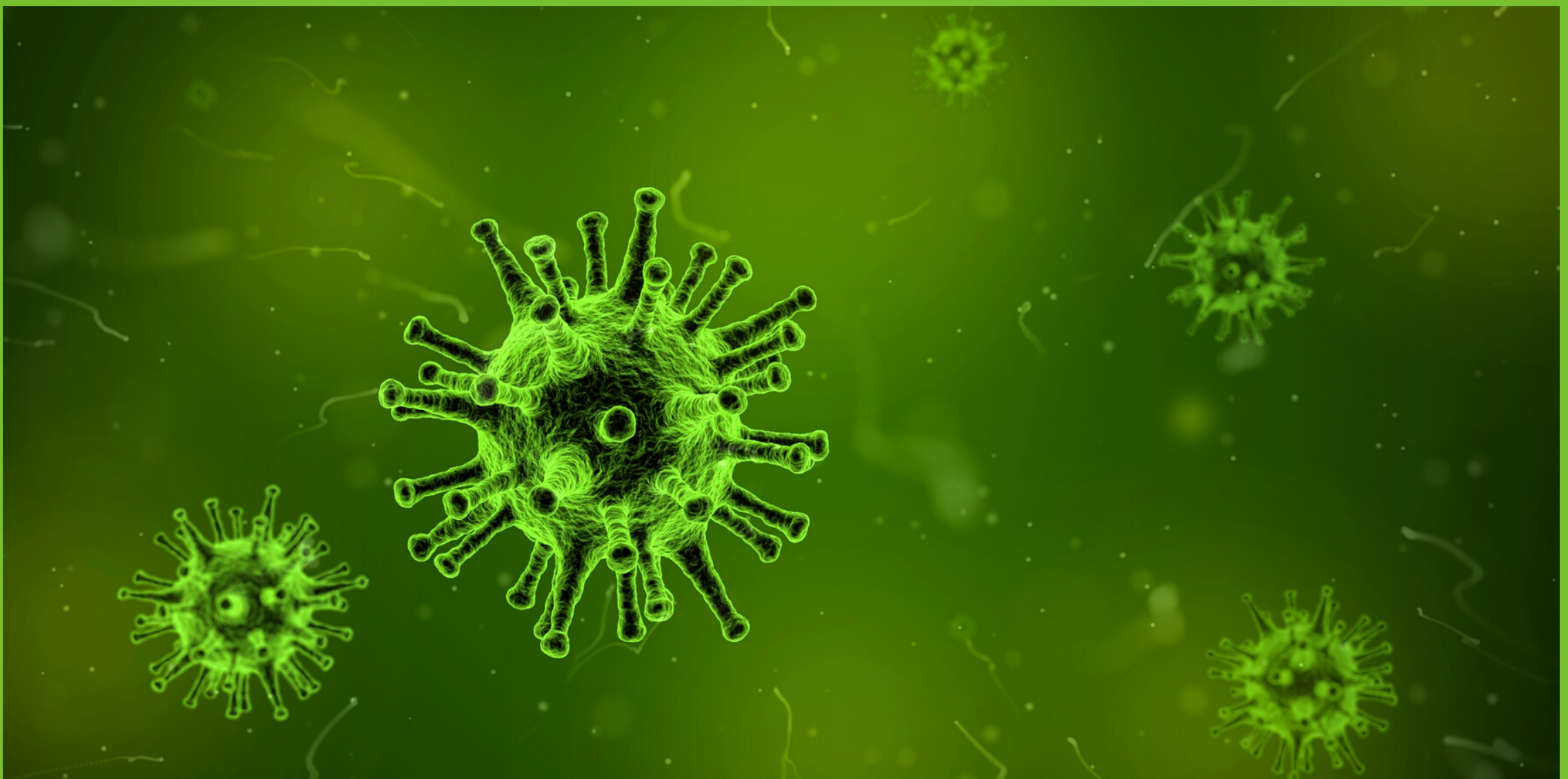
- ✓ staying home when sick;
- ✓ covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissue immediately;
- ✓ washing hands often with soap and water; and
- ✓ cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects.

As we learn more about COVID-19 public health officials may recommend additional actions.

Prevention is better than cure

Age-specific and Phase specific health education

The pages below share suggestions on how to engage learners of different ages on preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. Activities should be contextualized further based on the specific needs of children (language, ability, gender, etc.).



Prevention is better than cure

Foundation Phase

- Focus on good health behaviors, such as covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow and washing hands frequently
- Sing a song while washing hands to practice the recommended 20 second duration.
- Children can “practice” washing their hands with hand sanitizer
- Develop a way to track hand washing and reward for frequent/timely hand washing
- Use puppets or dolls to demonstrate symptoms (sneezing, coughing, fever) and what to do if they feel sick (i.e. their head hurts, their stomach hurts, they feel hot or extra tired) and how to comfort someone who is sick (cultivating empathy and safe caring behaviors)
- Have children sit further apart from one another, have them practice stretching their arms out or ‘flap their wings’, they should keep enough space to not touch their friends.
- Updated contact numbers of parents/caregivers
- Quarantine room

Prevention is better than cure

Primary School

- Make sure to listen to learner's concerns and answer their questions in an age-appropriate manner; don't overwhelm them with too much information. Encourage them to express and communicate their feelings. Discuss the different reactions they may experience and explain that these are normal reactions to an abnormal situation.
- Emphasize that children can do a lot to keep themselves and others safe.
 - Introduce the concept of social distancing (standing further away from friends, avoiding large crowds, not touching people if you don't need to, etc.)
 - Focus on good health behaviors, such as covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow and washing hands
- Help children understand the basic concepts of disease prevention and control.

Exercise

Encourage students to prevent and address stigma

- Discuss the different reactions they may experience and explain these are normal reactions to an abnormal situation.

Prevention is better than cure

Exercises

That demonstrate how germs can spread. For example, by putting colored water in a spray bottle and spraying over a piece of white paper. Observe how far the droplets travel.

Demonstrate why it is important to wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water

- Put a small amount of glitter in students' hands and have them wash them with just water, notice how much glitter remains, then have them wash for 20 seconds with soap and water
- Have students analyze texts to identify high risk behaviors and suggest modifying behaviors

For example, a teacher comes to school with a cold. He sneezes and covers it with his hand. He shakes hands with a colleague. He wipes his hands after with a handkerchief then goes to class to teach. What did the teacher do that was risky?

What should he have done instead?

Reduce Stigmatization

Click on the images to read more on how to minimize the stigma against the Corona virus



Prevention is better than cure

Primary Schools

Incorporate relevant health education into other subjects

- Science can cover the study of viruses, disease transmission and the importance of vaccinations
- Social studies can focus on the history of pandemics and evolution
- Life Orientation lessons can empower learners to be critical thinkers and makers, effective communicators and active citizens

Prevention is better than cure

Secondary School

- Make sure to listen to learners' concerns and answer their questions.
 - Emphasize that learners can do a lot to keep themselves and others safe.
 - Introduce the concept of social distancing
- - Focus on good health behaviors, such as covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow and washing hands

Encourage students to prevent and address stigma

- Discuss the different reactions they may experience and explain these are normal reactions to an abnormal situation. Encourage them to express and communicate their feelings.

Prevention is better than cure

Exercise

- Incorporate relevant health education into other subjects
 - Science courses can cover the study of viruses, disease transmission and the importance of vaccinations
 - Social studies can focus on the history of pandemics and their secondary effects and investigate how public policies can promote tolerance and social cohesion.
- Have learners make their own Public Service Announcements via social media, radio or even local tv broadcasting
- Life Orientation lessons can empower students to be critical thinkers and makers, effective communicators and active citizens.

Protocols for Schools

All schools to be linked to their nearest Primary Health Care (HPC) Facility and report immediately any suspected communicable (infectious) disease outbreak to the District Outbreak Response Team or EPI coordinator at the clinic.

- Schools should plan ahead with local health authorities, school health staff and update emergency contact list.
- The GDE District School Health coordinator and/or cluster leader (IDSO) should also be informed of any suspected infectious disease outbreak. This information may also be conveyed via the Provincial Outbreak Response Team's Whatsapp platform to expedite speedy response time (e.g. dispatching Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and DORT/PORT support to the affected school and learners)
- Remember that schools are not expected to screen learners or to identify cases of COVID-19 and most respiratory illnesses are not COVID-19, therefore call the school health nurse, nearest health facility or NICD toll free number or number of provincial officials, as indicated below.
- The health professional will advise on further action to be taken once diagnosis is confirmed

Procedures to follow

Learners and Staff who are ill

Encourage learners and staff to stay home when sick.

Review attendance and sick leave policies

Keep sick learners and staff separate from well learners and staff until they can leave.

Ensure for a quarantine room

Inform local health officials to identify and follow up on learners or teachers who are ill. Hotline 0800 029 999

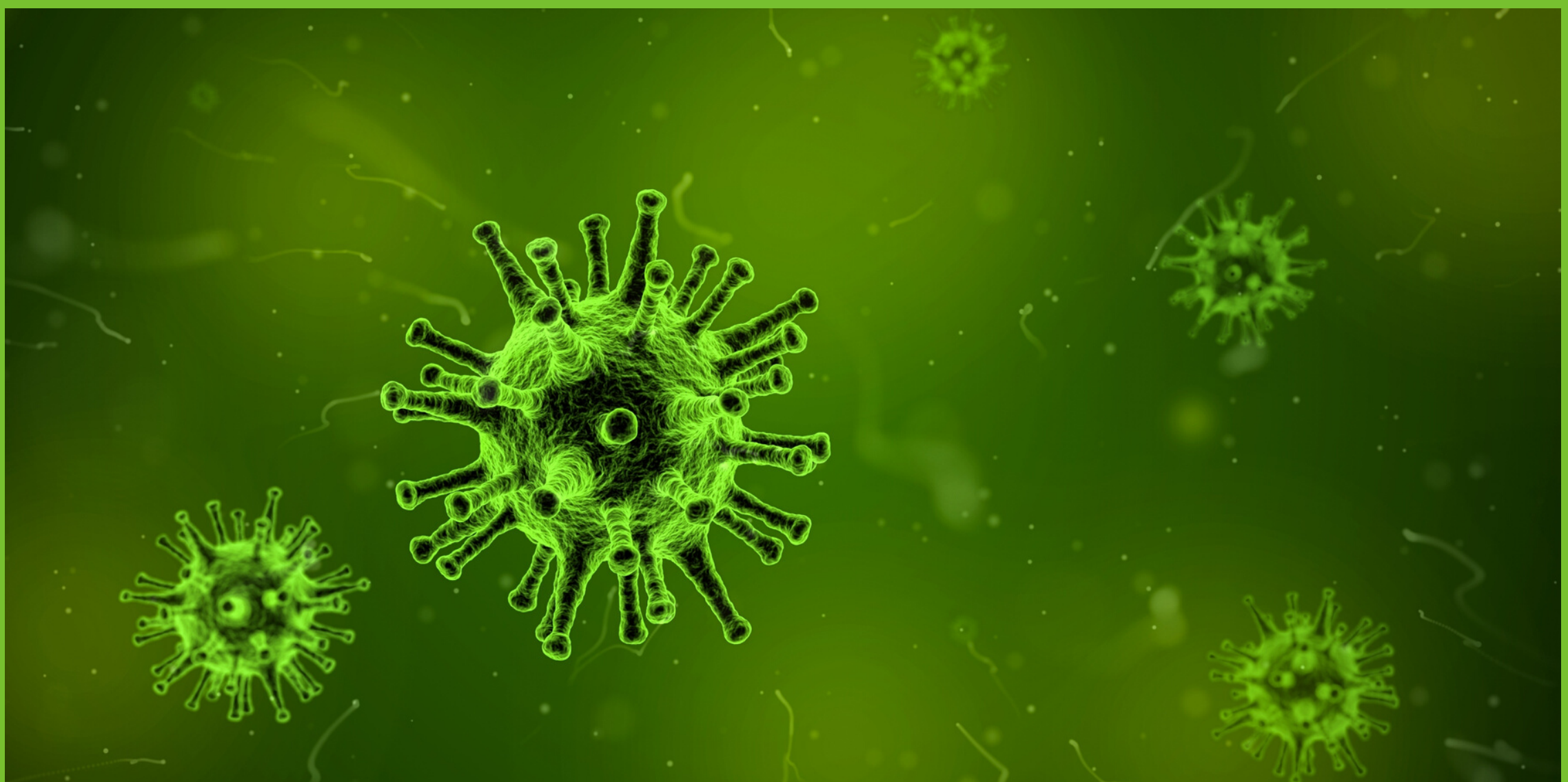
Inform learners parents to collect them from school

Procedures to follow

Learners and Staff who are ill

In serious cases learners may be referred directly, with the consent of parents, to the nearest clinic or health practitioner for assessment, depending on the situation/context, or sent home or collected by the parents.

Procedures need to be shared with parents, learners and staff ahead of time



Procedures to follow

Learners who may have been exposed to a suspected case of COVID-19.

no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home

Learners who may have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19

All close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case are required to self-quarantine at home for 14 days while being monitored for symptoms. They may not attend school. Learners who are not contacts of a confirmed case should not be prevented from attending school

Procedures to follow

Action to be taken when a case of COVID-19 (Learner or staff) is confirmed in your childcare facility or school

The childcare or educational institution will be contacted by the relevant public health officials to discuss the case,

An assessment of each childcare or education institution will be undertaken by the public health officials with relevant staff.

If there is a confirmed case, a risk assessment will be undertaken by the educational establishment with advice from the public health officials.

Prevention is better than cure

CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND STAFF

1. Promote and demonstrate regular hand washing and positive hygiene behaviors and monitor their uptake. Ensure adequate, clean and separate toilets for girls and boys
 - o Ensure soap and safe water is available at age-appropriate hand washing stations
 - o Encourage frequent and thorough washing (at least 20 seconds)
 - o Place hand sanitizers in toilets, classrooms, halls, and near exits where possible
 - o Ensure adequate, clean and separate toilets for girls and boys
- ☐ 2. Clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms and especially water and sanitation facilities at least once a day, particularly surfaces that are touched by many people (railings, lunch tables, door and window handles, toys, smartboards, teaching and learning aids etc.)
 - o Use sodium hypochlorite at 0.5% (equivalent 5000ppm) for disinfecting surfaces and 70% ethyl alcohol for disinfection of small items, and ensure appropriate equipment for cleaning staff

Prevention is better than cure

CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND STAFF

- 3. Increase air flow and ventilation where climate allows
(open windows, use air conditioning where available, etc.)
- ☐ 4. Post signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices
- ☐ 5. Ensure trash is removed daily and disposed of safely

Waste removal

All waste that has been in contact with the individual, including used tissues, and masks if used, should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied. It can then be put in the normal waste.

Support Contacts & Information

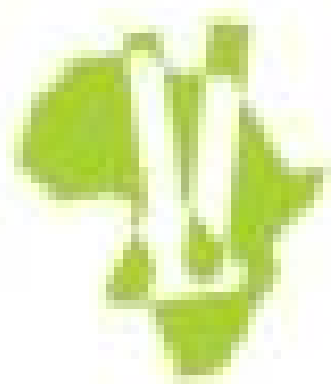
COVID-19 Corona Virus South African Resource Portal

Click on the image to read more



Resources and updates in realtime

Click on the images below for updates



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service



How do I help Learners or Colleagues?

If I suspect a learner or fellow colleague is showing symptoms, call the following numbers:

Emergency Hotline: **0800 029 999**

WhatsApp Support Line: **0600-123456**

For Psychosocial Support Call:

Childline **08000 55555**

Teddy Bear Clinic **011 484 4554**

For more information

Click on the images below for additional reading and resources



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



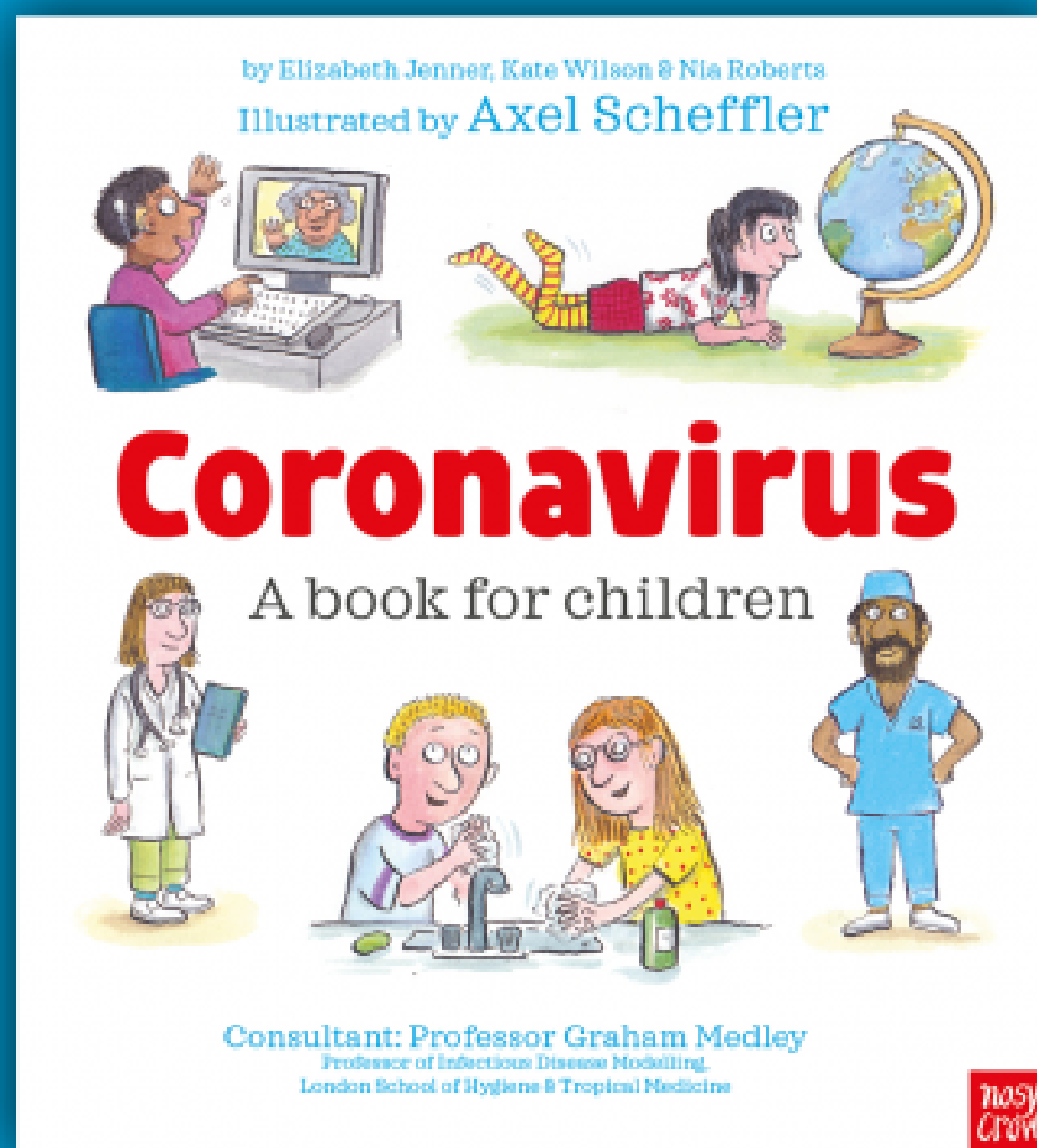
health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



COVID 19 Information to Learners

Click on the image to inform children on the Corona virus



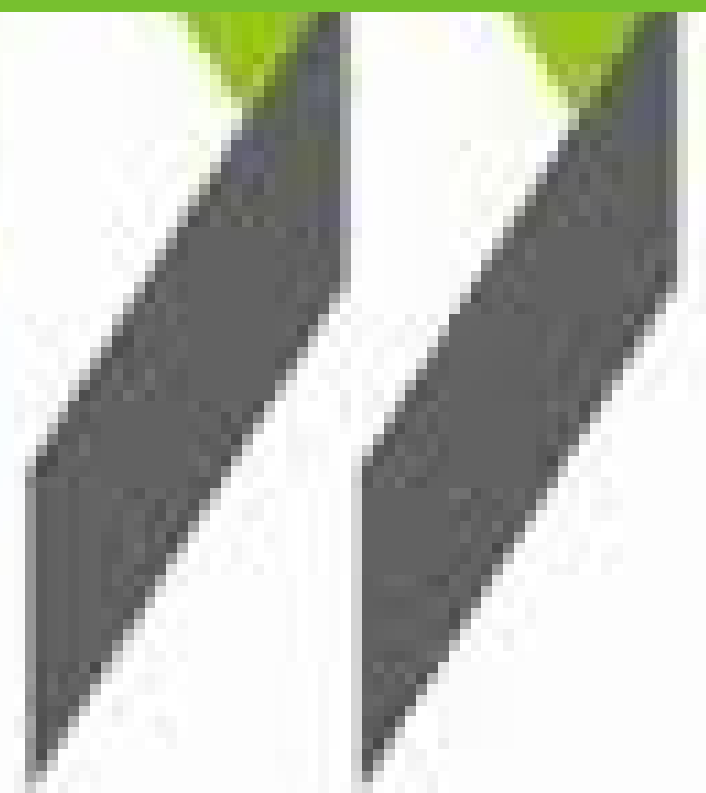
For more information

Click on the images below for additional reading and resources



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

With the participation of
UNESCO



OECD

Information on Child Abuse Guidelines

Click on the imag below to access the guide



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