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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA * Website: www.ecdoe.gov.za

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TO: DDG : IOM
DDG : CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT
ACTING CFO
CHIEF DIRECTOR: CLUSTER A
CHIEF DIRECTOR: CLUSTER B
ALL SCHOOLS
ALL OFFICIALS OF THE ECDOE
ORGANISED LABOUR
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

FROM: SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTION NOTE 15 - PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – AMENDMENT OF
INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE OPENING OF THE
EDUCATION SECTOR AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: 9 MAY 2020

1. As indicated in all previous instruction notes, the ECDOE is attempting to manage a very fluid situation, which changes from minute to minute.
2. In the implementation of plans, the ECDOE must very often rely on other Departments, as the performance of certain services and certain deliverables falls outside of the ECDOE's competencies.
3. As per the National Treasury Note Instruction 3/2020, the ECDOE was obliged to place orders with National Treasury for the provisioning PPE's.
4. On 6 May 2020, ECDOE was informed that all PPE's centrally procured by National Treasury will be re-prioritised for the Department of Health only, and that all Provincial Departments must implement emergency procurement processes to procure locally.
5. This has necessitated that the ECDOE reconsiders its timelines and amend accordingly.
6. THEREFORE, Instruction Note 13 is hereby amended to the extent that paragraph 4 to 12 are withdrawn and replaced with the following:

OPENING OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR

7. The safety of officials and learners remain the first priority of the Department, and no steps will be taken to place the health and safety of our officials and learners in jeopardy.
8. It was the intention of the Department, that at this stage, decontamination of schools, which is the responsibility of the ECDOE, would have commenced, the delivery of PPE's would have commenced, and other preparations for return to the workplace would have been at an advanced stage.
9. In the light of the information provided in paragraph 4 above, it is necessary to instruct as follows:
 - 9.1. SMS members who have returned to offices on 4 May 2020, shall continue to work from offices.
 - 9.2. Officials at head office who have been identified as performing essential services and have returned to offices shall continue to work from offices.
 - 9.3. District Directors and identified senior officials who have already returned to work on 4 May 2020, shall continue to work from offices.
 - 9.4. All other officials shall work from home until further notice.**
 - 9.5. The return of principals, SMT's and non-teaching officials to schools is hereby postponed until a date to be determined in due course.
 - 9.6. The return of all teaching staff is hereby postponed until a date to be determined in due course.
 - 9.7. Where the changes in the above schedule may impact the return of learners, that will be communicated as soon as the Minister of Basic Education has declared the date.
10. Those officials that have reported for duty, must still as first priority:
 - 10.1. Prepare the workplace, as per prescribed directives.
 - 10.2. Identify and inform officials who are required to return to the workplace, when the workplace is ready.
 - 10.3. Identify the date on when the officials must return to the workplace.


10.4. When so preparing the workplace and identifying officials to return to the workplace, the following must be considered:

10.4.1. Only up to one third of the work force may return to the workplace at this stage.

10.4.2. All health and safety directives be complied with.

11. Principals, SMT members and educators are urged to continue supporting learners and parents by finding creative and effective ways in reaching learners to ensure that now more than before, teaching and learning shall continue. Specific reference is made to Instruction Note 14 in this regard.
12. **District Directors are hereby instructed to ensure that this communication reaches all officials and public schools immediately.**

Yours faithfully



T. KOJANA
SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

09/05/20
DATE