



**TO: ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS
ALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS**

**CC: DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY
CHIEF DIRECTOR: SCHOOL MANAGEMENT
CHIEF DIRECTORS: DISTRICT OPERATIONS
MANAGEMENT**

**FROM: MR EDWARD MOSUWE
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

Dear Colleagues

SUBJECT: COVID-19: REOPENING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on the 12th March 2020, following an outbreak of the disease in Wuhan Province, China in December 2019. This was followed by the declaration of the National Disaster in South Africa by our Honourable President Mr Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa. This declaration necessitated the implementation of several stringent measures to curb the spread of the disease and report any suspected or confirmed cases.
2. Several guideline documents and policies, such as Circulars 1/2020, 3/2020, Circulars 7/2020, 15/2020 and 18/2020 as well as Government Gazette 43372 of 2020, provide guidance on the management and containment of the COVID-19.
3. The Minister for Basic Education promulgated Government Notice No. 30, in Government Gazette 43372 which, outlines the process of phasing in the re-opening of schools. This was preceded by the Pre-conditions for the deviation of Independent Schools and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres on COVID -19 and to guide all Independent Schools and Early Childhood Centres on their obligations before re-opening.


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4. Notice No. 302, in Government Gazette 43372, outlines the phased in return to schools and clearly stipulates that only schools and offices that have complied with the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures on COVID 19, as contemplated in the directions and regulations will be allowed to open.
5. A school or office that has failed to comply with the minimum health and social distancing measures on COVID-19 as contemplated in the Gazette and other regulations, must remain closed until the health, safety and social distancing measures are in place.
6. The Gauteng Department of Education acknowledges that Independent Schools have been afforded special pre-conditions for deviating from the Norm, to accommodate their numbers and capacity to handle social/ physical distancing as well as other COVID-19 safety requirements. However, the school principal has the responsibility to ensure a cautious phasing in process, bearing in mind the risks involved in the management of a school under the conditions of the spreading Pandemic.
7. We recommend that principals consider phasing in the grades, in accordance with Notice No. 302, in Government Gazette 43372, to give the school ample time to assess its capacity to manage Covid -19 conditions and keep all stakeholders safe. Where the school elects to apply Deviations, the school must apply for permission from the Head of Department. All applications for Deviations must be sent to this email: GDEindependantschools@gauteng.gov.za . This is the only email you can use for this purpose.
8. The application for Deviations must comprise the following:
 - a. **GDE Form D-COVID 19 application for deviation Independent Schools (attached)**
 - b. **The schools covid-19 Safety Plan**
 - c. **A completed COVID-19 School Readiness Tool**
9. The above documents must be addressed to the **Director Independent Schools**, Ms Chriselda Mosibudi Makhubela and Chief Director: School Management: Elize Froneman. Please include your updated email addresses for this purpose, to facilitate easy communication.

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10. All decisions regarding the phasing in of the re-opening of schools must put the best interests of the learners first, especially the safety and protection of their lives.

Yours sincerely



MR EDWARD MOSUWE

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DATE: 04/06/2020



FORM D: APPLICATION FOR DEVIATION BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

I (Name and Surname) the principal of
 Name of School:
 EMIS NO:Type of School: Primary / Secondary /Combined
 School Physical Address:

 Postal Code:
 E-mail Address:
 Contact No (landline): (Cellular)

hereby apply for deviation with regards to the phased in return to school of learners as stipulated in Notice No. 302, Government Gazette 43372 of 2020. The application is based on the fact that my school is currently compliant with all the specified health, safety and social distancing measures required to protect learners and staff against COVID 19 while at school. I confirm that the school has the following basic measures in place:

No.	Requirement	Status			Comment
		Yes	No	N/A	
1	Infrastructure compliance– Parking/ School Grounds Reception Areas/Ablution & Classrooms				
1.1	Is there a system (e.g. placeholders on the floor/cones/barriers) in place for security to ensure social distancing				
1.2	COVID-19 screening questionnaire of staff, learners and the public to ensure completeness of information				
1.3	Are temperature scanners available & in working condition (Required range is 36 -37 °C)				
1.4	Do all officials, learners and visitors have their hands sanitized before entering, while on and when leaving the school premises				

No.	Requirement	Status			Comment
		Yes	No	N/A	
1.5	Are there posters alerting all officials, learners and visitors that; "No mask No entry" visible at all entry points				
1.6	Are posters/leaflets/pamphlets available for COVID 19 awareness & education				
1.7	Have arrangements been made by the schools for Personal Protective Equipment's PPE's for learners?				
1.8	Have arrangements been made by the schools for Personal Protective Equipment's PPE's for all Staff?				
1.9	Have arrangements been made for social distancing in the classroom?				
1.10	Have arrangements been made for social distancing in the staff-room and education centres?				
1.11	Does the school have a COVID 19 coordination team				
1.12	Does the school have a COVID 19 plan (attach copy)				
1.13	Have you completed the COVID 19 compliance monitoring tool (attach copy)				
2.	Phase in plan	Grades			Date of return to School

DECLARATION

I confirm that the information provided above is to the best of my knowledge, true and complete in all respects. I am aware that should there be any information omitted on this form, I will be responsible for any consequences that may arise. I have also attached the completed COVID 19 compliance monitoring tool and COVID 19 Plan for the school.

Name and Surname (Principal)

Signature

Date:

<p>School Stamp</p>
