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ZIMBABWE

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Ministry of Primary and Secondary
Education

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Zimbabwe

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RE: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

1.0 Introduction

Primary and Secondary Schools will be re-opening on a date to be advised following a review of the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic by Government. The reopening of schools will follow a phased approach. The Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) guide the day to day operations at schools (inclusive of registered Independent Colleges) in order to ensure a safe, secure and healthy environment.

2.0 Application of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

2.1 The Standard Operating Procedures guide the day to day operations of all registered Government, Non-Government schools and Independent Colleges.

2.2 The SOPs provide guidelines to schools on the preparations that need to be made for the re-opening of schools and the procedures to follow when schools are open.

2.3 All relevant stakeholders should acquaint themselves with the SOPs as they contain provisions that are mandatory.

2.4 The SOPs will be reviewed as and when it is necessary.

3.0 Activities to be undertaken by schools

3.1 All schools are obliged to do the following activities:

- Ensure that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in place in adequate quantities.
- Appoint a gender balanced team of School Health Coordinators.
- Train School Health Coordinators, teachers, Deputy Heads and Heads of schools.
- Conduct regular COVID-19 awareness sessions for everyone in the school, including School Parents Assemblies (SPAs).
- Disinfect school premises, hostels and sanitize frequently touched surfaces.
- Clean the school environment regularly.
- Provide infrared-thermometers and ensure screening of every person that enters the school premises.
- Designate a holding bay for any learner, member of staff or visitor identified to be unwell. In boarding schools establish and fully monitor sick bays
- Display the contact details for the nearest health care facility or team.
- Provide litter bins for every class and at all strategic areas.
- Provide hand washing facilities for every class and a washing station at every entry point.

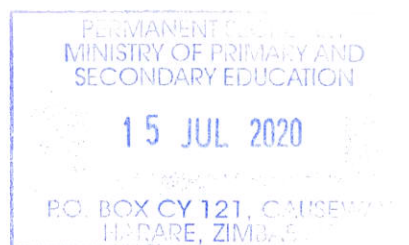
- Ensure the availability of liquid soap and/or hand sanitizers at every entry point.
- Enforce the wearing of face masks by all pupils, staff and visitors.
- Limit visitors to the school to only those that are essential.
- Maintain social/ physical distancing at the school, including in the hostels, at all times.
- Stand guided by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Recreation authorized sport codes.
- Ensure there is no sharing of equipment/ utensils by learners and teachers.
- Maintain an accurate contact register.
- Keep doors and windows open to ensure adequate ventilation.
- Create and regularly update a social register/ database for both learners and teachers.
- Display Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials at all strategic places.

4.0 Conclusion

The SOPs are mandatory and should be adhered to at each and every school for the safety and protection of learners, staff and visitors. The School Time Table must be prepared in a manner that ensures that the SOPs are not compromised. All stakeholders must embrace this new normal as the Ministry forges ahead with its mandate of providing inclusive, relevant and quality education. For further clarity, please read this circular together with the Standard Operating Procedures herein attached.



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T. Thabela (Mrs)



SECRETARY FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION