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GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION**DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002****AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(3), READ WITH REGULATION 33A(1) and (4), OF THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002), REGARDING THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS AND MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION, ALL PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, ALL EDUCATION DISTRICT OFFICES AND ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, in terms of regulation 4(3), read with regulation 33A(1) and (4), of the Regulations made under the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), published under Government Notice No. R.480, in Government Gazette No. 43258 of 29 April 2020, as amended, hereby amend the Directions regarding the closing and re-opening of schools and measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the National Department of Basic Education, and all Provincial Departments of Education, all education district offices and all schools in the Republic of South Africa, published under Government Notice No. 42, in Government Gazette No. 44154 of 12 February 2021, as amended, as set out in the Schedule.



MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION
DATE: 31 JULY 2021

SCHEDULE

Definition

1. In this Schedule, the “Directions” means the Directions regarding the re-opening of schools and measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the National Department of Basic Education, Provincial Departments of Education, and all schools in the Republic of South Africa, as published under Government Notice No. 42, in Government *Gazette* No. 44154 of 12 February 2021, amended under Government Notice No. 145, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44339 of 27 March 2021, Government Notice No. 224, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44486 of 23 April 2021, Government Notice No. 451, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44633 of 28 May 2021, Government Notice No. 393, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44779 of 29 June 2021, and under Government Notice No. 422, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44858 of 15 July 2021.

Amendment of direction 5A of Directions

2. Direction 5A of the Directions is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for sub-directions (1), (2), (3) and (4), respectively, of the following sub-directions:

“(1) A risk adjusted differentiated strategy means an approach to school attendance that is determined by the level of reported COVID-19 infections in the school, and COVID-19 infections in the district, municipality, and country.

(2) Primary schools (for learners in Grades R to 7) must return to the traditional and daily attendance timetabling model from 2 August 2021: Provided that the risk adjusted differentiated strategy, as contemplated in sub-direction (1), is implemented, and the minimum health and safety measures on

COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations, are adhered to.

- (3) Schools for learners with special education needs (Grades R to 12) must return to the traditional and daily attendance timetabling model from 2 August 2021: Provided that the risk adjusted differentiated strategy, as contemplated in sub-direction (1), is implemented, and all health and safety measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations are adhered to.
- (4)
 - (a) The social distancing measure in primary schools is reduced to one metre.
 - (b) Primary schools and schools for learners with special education needs that return to the traditional and daily attendance timetabling model, as well as school hostels, must ensure strict compliance with social distancing measures and minimum health protocols, which include the wearing of face masks, the washing of hands and the use of hand sanitizers, and must comply with safety measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations.”;
- (b) by the substitution for sub-direction (9) of the following sub-direction:
 - “(9) In keeping with the risk adjusted differentiated strategy and all health and safety measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations, a school that is unable to return to the traditional and daily attendance timetabling model which prefer to continue with a timetabling model, as contemplated in direction 16(2) and (3), must—
 - (a) by 6 August 2021, notify the Head of Department thereof, in writing, through the district office, and obtain the Head of Department’s approval to continue with a different timetabling model; and

- (b) in the notification to the Head of Department, set out the steps taken to return to a traditional and daily attendance timetabling model and provide reasons for the decision to adhere to a differentiated timetabling model.”; and
- (c) by the addition after sub-direction (12) of the following sub-direction:
 - “(13) A Member of the Executive Council responsible for education in a province that is unable to comply with the return date to the traditional and daily attendance timetabling model, as contemplated in direction 5A (2) and (3), must, as soon as possible, submit a report to the Minister, in writing, on the non-compliance for the Minister’s concurrence or further determination, which report must include—
 - (i) the reasons for the non-compliance; and
 - (ii) a plan with the proposed dates for the return of learners to the traditional and daily attendance timetabling model, which details the steps that will be taken in each school to ensure that learners are able to return safely to school,and thereafter provide a progress report to the Department of Basic Education, every two weeks, on the implementation of the plans.”.

Substitution of direction 11 of Directions

3. Direction 11 of the Directions is hereby substituted for the following direction:

“11. Sport and extracurricular activities

- (1) Subject to sub-directions (5) and (6), and in compliance with social distancing, hygiene and safety measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations, contact sport, non-contact sport, including training, intra-school and inter-school matches, and all

arts and culture intra-school and inter-school activities, may resume without any spectators.

- (2) Co-curricular and enrichment programmes, such as oral history, spelling bee, moot court, speech contests, debates and school clubs, may resume activities including competitive inter-school events and engagements, without any spectators.
- (3) Choir practice or rehearsals and choir competitions may resume in well ventilated areas or outdoors with all participants maintaining social distancing, without any spectators.
- (4) National, provincial, district championships and tournaments for both contact and non-contact sport that require learners to travel to other schools or provinces may resume with strict adherence to prescribed transport regulations and directions.
- (5) The following safety measures must be adhered to when resuming the activities contemplated in this direction:
 - (a) The number of persons in venues where the activities take place, change rooms or training areas, at any given time, must not be more than 50% of the capacity of the venue with persons observing the social distancing requirements;
 - (b) for outdoor activities, the total number of persons, including participants, officials and other personnel must not exceed 100 and for indoor activities the number of persons must not exceed 50.
 - (c) face masks must be worn by all persons entering the venues where the activities take place, change rooms or training areas, except when participating in training or matches;
 - (d) there must be sufficient quantities of hand sanitizers, with at least 70% alcohol content, available for use by all officials, coaches, assistants, learners and participants;
 - (e) there must be facilities for washing of hands with soap and water;

- (f) all windows and doors must remain open, where feasible, to ensure adequate ventilation;
 - (g) social distancing must be maintained at all times; and
 - (h) the sharing of drinks and drink containers is not allowed.
- (6) The school or venue hosting the events or activities must ensure that venues, tools and equipment are cleaned and sanitized before and after any activities.”.

Commencement

4. These amendment directions come into operation on the date of publication thereof in the *Government Gazette*.

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