



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

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MEMORANDUM

TO: CLUSTER CHIEF DIRECTORS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

FROM: DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CMD

SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT AND CONTAINMENT OF COVID-19 AT SCHOOL HOSTELS

DATE: 11 FEBRUARY 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

- Schools will be opening on 15 February 2021 for the learners, most school hostels will open a day before. It is crucial that COVID-19 safety protocols are observed at hostels to ensure that there are no COVID-19 outbreaks and any incidences at hostels.
- There are 107 public ordinary school hostels, 55 of which are subsidised and 52 are non-subsidised. This memorandum applies to all hostels.
- In September 2020 the National Department of Basic Education published and shared Standard Operating Procedures for the Management and containment of COVID-19 in school hostels and school communities. A link to this document is provided at the end of this memorandum.

2. PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

- This memorandum seeks to ensure that all schools with hostels attached to them adhere and observe the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Management and Containment of COVID-19 at School School Communities.

3. TARGET AUDIENCE

This memorandum is applicable to the following:

- Principals/Hostel Superintendents/Hostel Management Committees.
- Matrons and house-fathers.
- Kitchen supervisors, Cooks and General Assistants.
- Boarding learners.
- Everyone in the hostel environment.

4. MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOL HOSTELS AND DINING ROOMS.

Pages 39 – 43 (clause 19) of the Standard Operating Procedure for the Management and Containment of COVID-19 for Schools and School communities, provide an outline on how COVID-19 can be managed in school hostels and dining rooms. The SoP can be accessed from www.educaion.gov.za or directly from the following link:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Recovery%20plan%20page/Links%20for%20schools/dbe-standard-operating-procedure-for-covid-19.pdf>

PLEASE REFER TO THE ABOVE LINK FOR DETAILS.

A summary of the important measures to be undertaken are as follows:

- School principals to encourage parents not to send learners who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms back to hostels and school.
- Only learners than can be accommodated at a distance of at least 1.5 metres in all hostel facilities should be at the hostel at a given time. This includes common areas and dormitories.
- School hostels not able to comply with social distancing must operate on a weekly/monthly rotation basis.
- Learners and staff returning to hostels must be re-oriented to COVID-19 protocols.
- There must be sanitisers (70% alcohol content) at placed at key entry areas of the hostels for use by everyone.
- Private hostels (mainly private houses turned into learner accommodation) are a challenge and threat to COVID-19 breakouts; as experienced in some of these in 2020. Principals are requested to inform parents to only choose private hostels that are COVID-19 compliant.

5. FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVING (INCLUDING SCHOOLS WITH NSNP)

Using the same link from 4 above, schools can access guidelines on food preparation and serving, from pages 20 – 22.

6. CONCLUSION

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Management and Containment of COVID-19 for Schools and School communities should be adhered to by the entire target audience in conjunction with all the key and relevant legislation, policies, guidelines and frameworks.



11/02/2021

MR R. TYWAKADI

DATE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY