



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES
TEACHER UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS**


CIRCULAR NO. S9 OF 2022: REVISED MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

1. On 4 April 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the National State of Disaster was lifted from midnight of 5 April 2022. The Basic Education sector has welcomed the President's decision and recognises the implications of this decision for the sector. As such, the Department is hereby issuing the following directives on the prevention and management of COVID-19 and these are applicable with immediate effect:
 - All learners, teachers, non-teaching staff and visitors are no longer required to wear a mask during school breaks and during outdoor activities. The wearing of masks remains mandatory for every person when in the classroom, school halls and other indoor spaces. It is therefore required that schools must ensure that all learners, educators, school support staff and visitors are in possession of a mask prior to entering the school premises. Any individuals who do not have masks must be denied access to school premises. This requirement excludes children under the age of six years.
 - Screening for COVID-19 symptoms using a questionnaire and thermal screening using the infrared light thermometers must be discontinued with immediate effect for all individuals entering school premises.
 - Schools can now be utilised by communities for social gatherings including sporting activities, church services and other community events. Vendors are also allowed to sell foodstuff at school provided that they have a Certificate of Acceptance from the Municipality. It is the responsibility of the convenor of the social event to ensure that there is strict adherence to non-pharmaceutical intervention as stated in paragraph 2 below.

2. All other non-pharmaceutical measures remain in place and mandatory for schools and education offices and these are:
- Washing of hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitisers.
 - Placing of 70% alcohol-based hand sanitisers in each classroom, at entrances and exits, and near lunchrooms as well as halls so that sanitising of hands should be done when entering and leaving these venues.
 - Maintaining good ventilation by opening doors, windows and/or using fans for air circulation.
 - School buildings and equipment must be cleaned thoroughly and regularly by following the environmental health cleaning and disinfection protocol using household bleach. Environment cleaning by fogging and spraying of buildings is forbidden.

3. COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

- As part of the plan to eliminate COVID-19 in schools and make them safe places for teaching and learning, all schools will be utilised as vaccination sites for schools for all learners above 12 years as well as educators and school support staff who qualify for the booster doses.
- This is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Basic Education and Health and various partners.
- Parental consent will be required prior to learners being vaccinated in schools in line with the procedures of the Integrated School Health Programme Policy. A generic consent form has been provided for this purposes (**Annexure A**). All learners who wish to vaccinate and the parent has not given consent should be referred to the routine COVID-19 vaccination site. Frequently asked questions are provided for this purpose (**Annexure B**).



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ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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