



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

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ATT: ALL MEDIA HOUSE

SUBJECT: THE REOPENING AND RESUMPTION OF FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Child Welfare, on Monday, 16 March 2020 announced the closing of all Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs), Crèches, Kindergartens (Pre-Schools), across the country. The initial 21 days closure was however extended to the 03 August 2020, as a measure to contain the COVID -19 (Coronavirus) outbreak.

Following consultation with various stakeholders, and as endorsed by the Cabinet, the Ministry hereby announces the reopening and resumption of face-to-face schooling for all ECDs, Crèches, Kindergartens (Pre-Schools), as of Wednesday, 22 June 2020 to Friday, 18 December 2020.

While Namibia continues to record a few COVID-19 cases, the virus has caused the lives of many across the world. It is therefore in our best interest to adopt stringent safety and health protocols to protect children. All families sending their child **must agree in writing** to abide by these guidelines, and learners, teachers and other school staff (admin, security, cleaners, etc.), who are not feeling well should stay home.

Health & Hygiene Procedures

Social distancing

- Keep a distance of **minimum** 1 metre between children
 - Splitting groups into morning/afternoon sessions
 - Only allowing up to 8 children in one group at a time (plus two teachers maximum)
- Staff working in shifts to avoid non-essential persons being present
- Prohibiting parents from entering premises
- Ensuring sufficient distance between parents during drop-off and pick-up
 - Floor markings showing where to wait
- Supporting children in keeping distances to avoid forming groups
 - Discussions
 - Posters and songs
 - Markings on the floor
 - Separate workstations
 - Serving food individually

Stringent Disinfection Protocols

- Making accessible handwashing / hand sanitising stations throughout the premises
- Preventative protective equipment (PPEs) such as face masks and/or hand gloves

- Sanitising children's shoes and bags upon arrival and departure
- Ensuring that staff and children regularly wash/sanitise hands, at the very least
 - Upon entering and leaving the premises
 - Before and after using the toilet, eating, sneezing or coughing
 - Every hour
- Sanitising equipment regularly
 - Often used items such as light switches, railings, lunch tables, sports equipment, door and window handles, toys, teaching and learning aids etc.)
 - keyboards frequently
 - Learning materials once or twice a day and immediately after being in contact with body fluids like spit
 - Areas with heavy traffic like hallways, bathrooms, entrances, kitchens frequently
 - Where possible, using aerial disinfectants in the buildings (after hours)

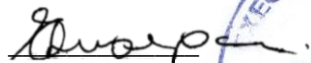
Screening

- Refusing entrance to any person or child suffering from COVID-19 symptoms
- Using non-contact thermometers to check temperatures upon arrival and refusing entrance to children with a temperature above 38°C, if possible
 - OR encouraging families to check temperatures daily and keep children at home who have a temperature above 38°C
- Requiring families to declare travel, contact with infected persons or infection itself immediately
- Requiring families to sign a contract detailing all measures, declaring their acceptance of these and freeing the ECD centre from liability (notwithstanding gross negligence)

Response to Suspected Contact or Infection

- In the facility
 - Immediate deep-clean of the facilities
 - Call the national toll free: or **0800 100 100**
 - Isolate or send home the affected person(s) to avoid infecting others
 - Encourage them to stay home to avoid transmission of COVID-19 to others
 - Other steps as required by the Ministry of Health

We rely on everyone's cooperation to safeguard our nation.



Esther Lusepani (Ms)
 Executive Director
 Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare

