

This document outlines, in simple terms, what to expect when returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. It details the roles and responsibilities of different actors within the basic education sector.

COVID-19 DISASTER

UPDATED SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS: 2021

FOR LEARNERS,
CAREGIVERS,
EDUCATION OFFICIALS &
SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

This guide is based off three documents from the Department of Basic Education (DBE):

- Directions Regarding the Reopening of Schools and Measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of Covid-19 (Feb 2021)
- Standard Operating Procedures for COVID-19 (Sept 2020), and
- Guidelines for Schools on Maintaining Hygiene (May 2020)

REPORTING NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 HEALTH, SAFETY AND SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS IN SCHOOLS

If your school is not complying with the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures explained in this guide, you can report the problem(s) to the authorities.

- **First, lodge a complaint internally with the school.**
 - According to the Standard Operating Procedures, every school must oversee and implement Covid-19 health and safety measures through a "Covid-19 response team" which is led by the principal. This team should be made up of at least the following members:
 - the Integrated School Health Team,
 - the School-Based Support Team and
 - a member of the School Governing Body.
 - You can report issues with safety compliance to any member of the Covid-19 response team.
 - The principal, who is the leader of that team, must report these issues to their local Circuit Manager and District/Provincial Integrated School Health Team. The district refers this upward to the Head of Department at the provincial level.
 - According to the Directions, after receiving reports of compliance issues in schools, the Head of Department at the Provincial Level and the school must, within 3 days, put together a plan to resolve the issue. This plan must be communicated to the school community within 7 calendar days of the first complaint.
- **If laying the complaint internally at the school does not address the the problem, you can call the local district office for your school.**
 - You can find which district your school is [here](#), or you can ask the school principal or SGB chair.
 - You can find contact details for your district offices [here](#).
 - The district must refer this problem to the provincial Head of Department.
- **You can also call the toll-free Department of Basic Education hotline number to report problems at school: 0800 202 933.**
 - The Hotline will ask whether you have already complained internally at the school level.
 - You need to have the name of the school and details about the complaint.
 - They will ask which District your school is located in.
 - The Hotline should refer your complaint to your provincial Head of Department, which then has 7 calendar days to communicate a plan for the resolution of the issues to you and the school community.
- **If after 7 days you still haven't received feedback, or if there is no plan to address the issues at the school, you can contact SECTION27 using the details below:**
 - We will write to the HOD with details of the complaint and follow up with the relevant officials.

CALL/WHATSAPP 

067 419 6841 or
060 754 0751.

EMAIL 

advice@section27.org.za or
adviceoffice@section27.org.za

COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 HEALTH, SAFETY AND SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS IN SCHOOLS

The government has committed to making sure that schools are safe environments for learning and teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic. This guide explains the main health and safety protocols at South African schools to contain, prevent and manage Covid-19. It also shows you how to determine whether your school is not compliant with these measures, and what you can do to report non-compliance and get the situation resolved.

This manual draws from three documents which describe the health, safety and social distancing measures needed at schools: The Directions, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the Guidelines. It is mandatory to adhere to the Directions and SOPs. Here is more information about the various documents:

DOCUMENT	KNOWN AS	DATE	URL
Directions Regarding the Reopening 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	The Directions	12 February 2021	Available here .
The DBE's Standard Operating Procedures For The Prevention, Containment And Management Of Covid-19 In Schools And School Communities	The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	September 2020	Available here .
DBE Guidelines for Schools on Maintaining Hygiene during Covid-19 Pandemic	The Guidelines	May 2020	Available here .

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL HEALTH, SAFETY AND SOCIAL DISTANCING (1).

DIRECTIONS REGARDING THE REOPENING 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

Also known as “the Directions”. These legally binding directions have been issued by Minister for Basic Education Angie Motshekga in terms of the Disaster Management Act. It bases its rules for schools off of the National Alert Level which comes from the Disaster Management Act. This set of Directions consolidates amendments made to school directions since the beginning of the pandemic and outlines how schools must reopen in 2021. It outlines the measures that officials at every level of the Basic Education system must put in place to prevent outbreaks of Covid-19 at school, and how to manage them if they do happen.

The Directions apply to all schools, hostels, offices. They also apply to all learners, officials of the Department of Basic Education (DBE) – including educators, school staff, and workers for the DBE – school governing bodies, school boards and any third parties.

Section 13(7) of these Directions says that every school, hostel and office must implement health and safety measures of these directions as well as DBE Standard Operating Procedures and DBE Guidelines. This means that these Directions have to be applied in conjunction with the SOPs and Guidelines. The Directions also state that DBE have to revise the SOPs and Guidelines regularly according to updated information and best practices, in consultation with the Minister of Health.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL HEALTH, SAFETY AND SOCIAL DISTANCING (2 AND).

DBE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTAINMENT OF COVID-19 FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITIES (SEPTEMBER 2020)

Also known as the SOPs. This document provides guidelines for schools to prevent, contain and manage Covid-19 in schools. It helps administrators and schools understand the protocols that must be followed.

This SOP document must be adhered to by all the administrators of schools in the basic education sector, and is read in conjunction with the Directions and Guidelines.

The SOPs apply to all organisations in the DBE (national, provincial and district offices, school management teams, school governing bodies of private and public schools) as well as anyone else – including those from the Department of Health or Social Development, or any third parties – who provides health and essential services to schools.

DBE GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS ON MAINTAINING HYGIENE DURING COVID-19.

Also known as the "Guidelines". These are non-mandatory. These outline guidelines for schools to follow regarding cleaning, disinfection, hygiene and complying with other health and safety protocols. This document details the roles and responsibilities of various actors in the school setting. It contains a list of "Covid-19 essentials" which must be provided to each school. The Principal of the school orders this package for the school based on the numbers of learners, officials and other school staff at the school.

SCHOOL REOPENING 2021



The 2021 School calendar for public schools is available [here](#).

SECTION 5 OF THE DIRECTIONS: OPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR

This section of the Directions gives dates of return for principals, school management teams, educational assistants, non-educational staff, educators and learners for 2021.

This section of the Directions states:

“(5) All conditions in the Directions and Regulations published in relation to health, safety and social distancing measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, under Alert Level 3, still apply under Adjusted Alert Level 3 and must be adhered to.

(6) Only those schools and offices that have complied with the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these Directions and the Regulations, are allowed to open, as contemplated in sub-direction (1): Provided that a public school must also have all the COVID-19 essentials in place.

(7) A school or office that has failed to comply with the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these Directions and the Regulations, remains closed until all the health, safety and social distancing measures are in place.”

What this means is that there are minimum health and safety protocols that have to be met before a school can be reopened in 2021, and these measures adhere to the National Alert Level of the country.

This section states that the Head of Department (HOD), or a person they have authorised, must continuously monitor and evaluate the situation with Covid-19 in schools and ensure that hygiene and safety protocols are maintained for duration of the State of Disaster. The HOD must report to the DBE in writing every two weeks on:

- The number of Covid-19 cases in schools;
- Any failures to meet required minimum health, safety and social distancing measures (contained in the SOPs and Guidelines) or any failures to provide a Covid-19 essential package to a public school;
- And whether or not they think the school is permitted to be open in terms of these Directions.

If the HOD believes that the school should not be permitted to be open because it does not meet minimum health, safety and social distancing requirements on Covid-19, the HOD and the school in question has to come up with a plan to address the issues within 3 calendar days. The plan must include (but is not limited to):

- An explanation of the scope of the problem(s)
- Measures taken to address the problem(s)
- And any challenges faced experienced in addressing the problem(s).

This plan must be communicated to school communities – including officials, parents/caregivers and learners – within 7 calendar days of the problem being reported.

Only the HOD can decide if a school can be closed or not.

The following principles are drawn from the Standard Operating Procedures and Directions, which are mandatory. For more detailed guidelines, you can check out the [WHO](#) and the [College of Medicines SA](#).

ACCESS CONTROL AND SCREENING

SECTION 4 OF THE DIRECTIONS STATES:

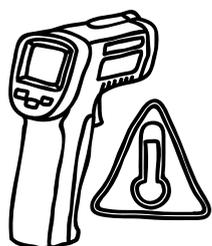
“(1) No person, other than a learner or official, may enter a school premises or hostel, unless such person obtains the permission of, and makes arrangements with, the principal or Head of Department in advance before entering the school premises or hostel.

“(2) Sub-direction (1) does not preclude any state institution supporting constitutional democracy from executing their mandate.”

This means that any visitors or third parties have to have permission from the principal or HOD in order to visit a school. The only people who don't have to get permission to visit a school are members from government departments whose work is crucial to the functioning of our constitutional democracy (eg: SAPS, SADF, DBE, DSD, DOH). These people must make an appointment with the school.

The SOPS give more detail on how visitors or third parties can access schools:

- Every person entering a school must be screened for Covid-19 symptoms.
- All visitors have to sign a register with their personal information.
- All visitors must wear a face mask and sanitise their hands before entering the school premises.
- All visitors must first report to the reception area and be screened.



LOWER THAN 38°C

SYMPTOM SCREENING

Every person entering a school must be screened for Covid-19 symptoms. This is stated in both the SOPs and the Directions.

This process will be repeated every day. While waiting to be screened to be admitted into the school, social distancing must be observed.

Screeners must follow Department of Health protocols and must have been trained for the job. Screening has three potential phases: a questionnaire, a temperature check and a travel/contact history. Screening questions include:

- Do you have a high temperature?
- Do you have a cough?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Do you have difficulty breathing (shortness of breath)?
- Do you feel weak and tired today?
- Can you taste food and drinks normally?
- Can you smell normally?
- Have you had close contact with someone suspected to have Covid-19 or has been diagnosed with Covid-19?
- If you answer no to all of these questions, you are allowed to enter the school for a temperature check.
- If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you will need to have your temperature checked and you will become a "person under investigation" (PUI).
- Temperature Check
 - Here, your temperature will be taken with an infra-red thermometer. **If your temperature is higher than 38°C**, you may have a fever. If you have a fever, you are considered a PUI and will have to be isolated and referred to the health officials in your area.

SCREENING AND SYMPTOMS

If you don't think your school complies to these principles and is therefore unprepared to be reopened safely, contact us on 067 419 6841 or 060 754 0751.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS DEVELOPED WHILE AT SCHOOL:

If a person develops Covid-19 symptoms such as **fever, cough, sore throat, redness of eyes and shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, body aches, loss of smell or loss of taste, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fatigue or weakness** while at school, then the following applies:

- If the person is already in the school, hostel or office, they must immediately self-isolate in a special isolation room at the school.
 - The Isolation room must be well ventilated and must have enough space for more one person to be isolated at the same time while maintaining social distancing measures (1.5m).
 - The school must advise the parent or guardian of a learner with Covid-19 symptoms to come fetch them from the school in a way that does not place anyone at risk of transmission.
 - The person must either be self-isolated or go get a Covid-19 test immediately. The person becomes a "Patient Under Investigation" (PUI) pending the results of their test.
- The areas where that person was present must be disinfected.
- People in close contact with the PUI must be contacted and told to be screened.
- The school must take any other appropriate measures to prevent possible transmission.

Section 14(7) of the Directions states:

"If any person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and isolated in accordance with the Department of Health Guidelines, a school, hostel or office may only allow the return of such person to the school, hostel or office on condition that he or she has undergone a medical assessment confirming his or her fitness to return."

This means that if a person who was diagnosed with Covid-19 isolated according to DOH guidelines and is no longer contagious, they may return to school. No one can be barred from returning to school if they no longer have Covid-19.

- The SOPs state that a person can return to school ten days after a positive test or the day when their symptoms began, if there is no fever or other Covid-19 symptoms. Ten days after a positive test or first symptoms and once Covid-19 symptoms stop, you can go back to school.
- If a person is admitted to hospital for Covid-19, they are allowed to return 8 days after being discharged from hospital if they are no longer showing symptoms.
- The SOPs state that "Repeat testing for SARS-CoV-2 or a doctors' letter of fitness is NOT required before returning to school or work".



According to the Directions, every school, hostel and office must have sufficient and easily accessible quantities of hand sanitisers based on the number of learners, educators and officials at the school. Hand sanitizers used at school must have at least 70% alcohol content and comply with recommendations of the Dept of Health.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HAND WASHING

Every school must also have hand washing facilities with soap and water.

Hand washing is the first golden rule of hygiene. Wash or sanitise hands:

- When entering or leaving the school
- When entering or leaving classrooms
- Before eating or handling food
- After caring for the sick
- After touching surfaces (like door knobs, railings, tables, and other frequently touched surfaces)
- After visiting the toilet (WASH hands, using hand sanitiser is insufficient)

HOW TO WASH HANDS:

- Wet hands and apply soap
- Rub palms together
- Rub soap between hands, fingers, thumbs, wrists
- Clean under nails
- Rinse hands
- Dry hands with a paper towel or allow hands to air dry (DO NOT use a cloth towel or share paper towels)

HOW TO SANITISE HANDS:

- Apply sanitiser (with at least 60% alcohol base) to palm of hand
- It should be enough sanitiser to make around the size of a R1 or R2 coin
- Rub the sanitiser between the palms of your hands and between fingers
- Do this for at least 20 seconds, until hands are dry
- If using gloves, sanitise before and after using the gloves but do not put sanitiser on the gloves directly.

Every classroom, office, bathroom, entrance or exit must have a handwashing/sanitising station near to it.

COVID-19 ESSENTIALS PACKAGE

According to the Directions, every school, hostel and office must have sufficient and easily accessible quantities of hand sanitisers based on the number of learners, educators and officials at the school. **This is part of the Covid-19 essentials package** that the principal of each school has to order in line with the number of people at the school. This list includes:

- Cloth masks or face shields
- Liquid soap dispensers
- Bracket (for hand sanitiser) Medical grade stainless steel to fit hand sanitiser
- Paper hand towels
- Germ kill liquid soap
- Hand sanitisers (minimum 60% alcohol) 500ml Pump action long nose pump
- Gloves - Surgical & Examination - Natural Rubber Latex
- Gloves - Heavy Duty, elbow length if possible
- Plastic Aprons (disposable)
- Goggles/Face-Shields/Visors
- Biohazard bin liners
- Cleansing wipes
- Disinfectant
- Digital thermometer scanner
- Biohazard bags
- Deep cleansing kit (1 per school)
- Respirators

Learners and officials are encouraged to keep their nails and teeth clean, refrain from touching their eyes, mouth or face and sneeze or cough into a bent elbow or tissue. This tissue must be discarded into a bin with a lid immediately. Do not share cups/water bottles, eating utensils, food or drinks.

Every school must have hand washing facilities.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

PROVISION OF MASKS

Section 13, subsections (1)-(4) of the Directions speak about the provision of Masks and face shields:

- Based on numbers of learners at school, the principal must make a request for masks in writing to the PED via their District Office.
- The principal must factor the needs of learners and officials into their request and must request transparent face shields for learners or officials who need them.
- The District Director must process the request and send it onto the PED within 3 days.
- The PED must order enough cloth face masks and face shields for learners with special educational needs. The PED has to make sure the cloth face masks are delivered to public schools “timeously”.

Later, the Directions [Sections 15(4)(a)-(b)] say that the PED must provide each official and learner in public schools with two cloth face masks or face shields. Wearing a mask or face shield that covers both the nose and mouth is compulsory in schools.

Before and after putting on any form of PPE, you must wash your hands carefully. This prevents cross contamination.

PPE alone does not stop the spread of Covid-19: you must also wash hands regularly, try not to touch your face and dirty surfaces, and ensure that social distancing measures are respected. Schools are required to give each learner and staff member two cloth masks.

Every learner, staff member and visitor **must wear a cloth mask** at school, on scholar transport, and in hostels, at all times. Staff members conducting screening must wear a face mask.

Before and after putting on any form of personal protective equipment (PPE), it is important to wash your hands carefully.

PPE is not enough to stop the spread of COVID-19 - you must also wash hands regularly, avoid contact with surfaces, try not to touch your face and ensure that proper hygiene measures are met.

HOW TO PUT ON A MASK:

- **Wash your hands carefully with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before putting on or taking off any form of PPE.**
- Check the mask for tears or holes. If there is a hole, this mask is no longer functional.
- Make sure the proper side of the mask faces outward.
- Place the mask on your face, ensuring it covers your nose, mouth and chin.
- Secure the straps/elastic loops behind the ears snugly.
- Masks must be washed and ironed after each day. In other words, do not wear a mask for multiple days in a row: alternate masks while old ones are being cleaned.

Food handlers must wear:

- protective headgear (like visors or face shields),
- masks, and
- closed shoes.



It is recommended that cleaners have access to the following PPE:

- disposable plastic aprons (black dustbin bags can be modified for this purpose),
- face masks,
- protective eye gear like goggles,
- heavy duty gloves that go up to the elbow, and closed shoes.

For more detailed guidance on particular PPE requirements when interacting with learners with disabilities, see these specific guidelines:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/Guidelines%20for%20Schools%20with%20Learners%20with%20Physical%20Disabilities.pdf> and:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/Guidelines%20for%20Schools%20with%20Learners%20with%20Intellectual%20Disability.pdf>



If you don't think your school complies to these principles and is therefore unprepared to be reopened safely, contact us on 067 419 6841 or 060 754 0751.

PHYSICAL OR SOCIAL DISTANCING

PHYSICAL DISTANCING (ALSO KNOWN AS SOCIAL DISTANCING) AT SCHOOLS

Every school must comply with social distancing requirements in the regulations, SOPs and Guidelines. According to these documents, **there must always be 1.5 meters between each person.**

Desks must be spaced out accordingly and no large gatherings are allowed.

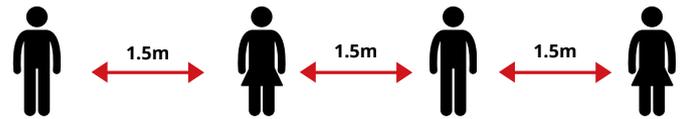
Large gatherings at schools, including funerals, sports events with spectators, church gatherings etc are prohibited.

To facilitate social distancing, the Directions state that a school can use one of the following timetable models based on their context and needs:

- (a) Daily and weekly rotation;
- (b) bi-weekly rotation;
- (c) platooning or shifts;
- (d) traditional and daily attendance; or
- (e) a hybrid of the latter.

This section states that if schools have large enough facilities (like classrooms, laboratories, bathrooms, halls etc) to maintain social distancing requirements, they do not have to change their traditional/daily timetable system.

If a school has a large enough facility – like a hall or auditorium – to allow for large gathering of more than 50 people, it is allowed on the condition that health, safety and social distancing measures are met.



Choir rehearsal and performances are prohibited. Solo vocal rehearsals are allowed.

Extracurricular activities like: oral history, spelling bee, moot court, speech contests, debates and school clubs, may take place on virtual platforms. No travelling to other schools or provinces is allowed for any extracurricular activity.

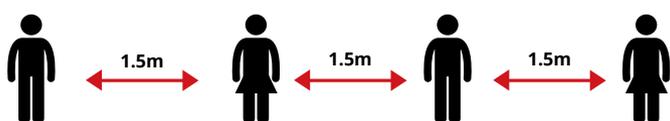
Non-contact sports can resume without spectators.

- The number of people in venues like change rooms or training areas cannot be more than 50% capacity.
- Face masks must always be worn by all sport participants like players, trainers/coaches, etc except when playing a match.
- Sanitisers must be available for all participants.
- Sharing of water is not allowed.

Queuing for food at either tuckshops or for school nutrition programme meals is not allowed. It is recommended that learners eat their lunch in classrooms, where they can be supervised by staff.

Each school must have an isolation room where persons showing COVID-19 symptoms can be isolated until they are tested.

Schools facilities, including school halls, are not allowed to be used for funerals or other public gatherings during this period. This is to avoid contamination of the school premises.



CLEANING & DISINFECTION

If you don't think your school complies to these principles and is therefore unprepared to be reopened safely, contact us on 067 419 6841 or 060 754 0751.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

COVID-19 spreads through **droplets** of an infected person's saliva. These droplets can survive on surfaces for different amounts of time, and therefore surfaces need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly. If they are not cleaned and disinfected regularly, anyone who touches them might be at risk.

If there has been a confirmed Covid-19 case in the school, all areas they have been in contact with for the **three days before** must be identified and disinfected.

Routine cleaning can be done with regular **detergents**, and you should follow the instructions on its packaging. **Disinfection** kills more germs, and must be done in addition to regular cleaning. Use alcohol based solutions with at least **70% alcohol** which have been approved by SABS.

Recommended products for disinfection include:

- sodium hypochlorite 0.5% (biocide sachets)
- bleach mixture of 250ml of bleach to 5 litres of water
- Surfaces must be wiped down in-between daily cleaning with at least 70% ethyl alcohol cleaner.

CLEANING MINIMALLY TOUCHED SURFACES

These surfaces include floors, walls, blinds, ceilings etc.

- To clean these surfaces, you should use a detergent solution or detergent wipes.
- Damp mopping is better than dry mopping.
- Clean walls and blinds when visibly dirty.
- Change curtains regularly and clean when visibly dirty.
- Clean sinks and basins regularly.

CLEANING FREQUENTLY TOUCHED SURFACES

Schools must be cleaned daily.

- All work surfaces and equipment must be cleaned before school starts or after school ends for the day.
- Clean and disinfect classrooms, sleeping areas and sanitation facilities at least once a day.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces more frequently, preferably hourly. These surfaces include:
 - doorknobs,
 - railings,
 - desks,
 - light switches,
 - braille signage,
 - lunch tables,
 - sports equipment,
 - window handles,
 - toys,
 - teaching aids,
 - surfaces like taps in bathrooms
- All surfaces in bathrooms must be wiped down twice daily using a disinfectant cleaner.
- Collect all bin bags with potentially contaminated waste from classrooms and offices, and dispose of safely daily.
- To dispose of rubbish, 'double-bag' the rubbish and leave in a specific, demarcated rubbish area.



If you don't think your school complies to these principles and is therefore unprepared to be reopened safely, contact us on 067 419 6841 or 060 754 0751.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

CLASSROOMS

Efforts must be made to **reduce class sizes** so that social distancing of 1.5m can be observed.

Every classroom must have a **hand washing or sanitiser station** at the door. Communal water bowls are not recommended: you can make a 'tippy tap' by following the instructions [here](#).

- Learners and educators must wash/sanitise their hands before entering or leaving the classroom.
- Each classroom should have paper towels for hand drying. Shared towels are not recommended.
- Each classroom should have a litter bin with a lid and bin-bags in which waste can be thrown away.

Desks or tables must be spread out across the classroom - 1.5m must separate each desk.

- It is recommended that desks should not be shared.

Classrooms must be well **ventilated**. It's recommended windows are left open.

Masks are to be worn in classrooms at all times.

TOILETS/BATHROOMS



There must be hand washing stations within **5m** of every toilet.

- Sanitiser is not recommended for use after the toilet - it is not strong enough.
- Everyone must wash their hands carefully for 20 seconds with soap and water after using the toilet.

Frequently touched surfaces, including those in bathrooms, must be disinfected hourly.

- All surfaces in the bathroom must be wiped down twice daily using a disinfectant.

HOSTELS

Hostels must comply with all of the above rules. The following rules should apply too:

- Everyone in hostels must wear a mask at all times.
- At all entrances, exits, dining halls and study rooms, sanitizers/water and soap must be available.
- Hostels must be regularly disinfected, paying particular attention to frequently touched surfaces and rooms with high traffic of people.
- Learners must bath every day with warm water and soap.
- Learners must wear shoes everywhere in the hostel, including to the bathrooms.
- Schools must have infra-red thermometers to screen hostel learners and staff.
- Hostel staff must be trained on COVID-19.
- Hostel staff must wear personal protective equipment when on duty.
- Beds must be positioned 1.5-2m apart from each other.
- In general, physical distancing of 1.5-2m should be observed, including in dining halls and libraries.
 - Library and dining hall use must be supervised by staff to ensure physical distancing.
- Meat and eggs must be very well cooked.
- Meals must be prepared with strict compliance to health and hygiene rules.
- Food handlers must sanitise their hands, surfaces and utensils regularly.
- No sharing of beds, food utensils, cups, bottles, stationery or any other items is allowed.
- No visits to other boarders' rooms are allowed.
- If a boarder, teacher or hostel staff member feels unwell they should self isolate immediately and inform the health department.

TRANSPORT & NUTRITION

If you don't think your school complies to these principles and is therefore unprepared to be reopened safely, contact us on 067 419 6841 or 060 754 0751.

SCHOLAR TRANSPORT

All scholar transport must abide by regulations gazetted by the Department of Transport. Currently, all vehicles are allowed to operate at 100% capacity.

Using scholar transport:

- The vehicle driver and learners must wear masks.
- When you get onto the bus/taxi/transport, sanitise your hands with 60% alcohol based sanitiser.
- Open windows as much as possible for ventilation.
- When you get off the bus/taxi/transport, sanitise your hands again.
- Drivers must sanitise their hands when entering or disembarking the vehicle.

Transport operators and drivers:

- must clean and disinfect their vehicles before and after transporting learners, especially the door and window handles, armrests and handrails.
- Transport operators must also install hand sanitisers with a minimum of 60% alcohol content at the door of the vehicle.
- Department officials must monitor vehicles to ensure compliance.



NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME

The Directions state that "The Head of Department must ensure that the National School Nutrition Programme is made accessible to every qualifying learner". The DBE has also committed to giving each learner who qualifies for the NSNP meals even if schools are closed again during the Covid-19 second wave.

Additional hygiene measures are required for food safety and the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. These measures apply in addition to the general guidelines for schools, food storage and preparation for the NSNP.

Volunteer Food Handlers must:

- Wash their hands thoroughly before handling food.
- Wear closed shoes.
- Wear face masks, headgear and disposable aprons.

Cleaning:

- All **surfaces, appliances** and **utensils** must be disinfected daily.
 - It is recommended that either sodium hypochlorite 0.5% (biocide sachets) or a bleach mixture of 250ml of bleach to 5 litres of water is used for this.
- Surfaces and utensils must be wiped down in-between daily cleaning after use/touch, with at least 70% ethyl alcohol cleaner.
- Food must be prepared carefully and rinsed carefully before cooking.
- Food handlers must ensure that learners do
- not share utensils, food or drinks

Learners must eat meals in classrooms under the supervision of an educator. Learners must wash hands before and after meals.

Schools should consider implementing staggered serving times to prevent queuing.