



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**TO: DISTRICT MANAGERS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
OFFICIALS OF THE INTEGRATED SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME
PRINCIPALS OF BOTH PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
EDUCATORS**

**CIRCULAR S2 OF 2020: THE COVID-19 AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF COMORBIDITIES
IN LEARNERS**

The evidence emerging from countries around the world is clear and consistent: children are less likely to become seriously ill from COVID-19. Notwithstanding, the Departments of Basic Education (DBE) and Health (DOH) are setting up health safety measures to keep all children safe during this pandemic. Evidence to-date also indicates that children with some medical conditions appear to be susceptible to severe illness if they contract the virus.

Schools must therefore gather information on learners with co-morbidities in order to ensure that the necessary support and protection is provided in schools. Current guidance from the DOH identifies only a few medical conditions which are included in the attached Learner Health Questionnaire to be completed by parents/caregivers and learners and returned to school by the Friday of the first week of reopening of each Grade. The school health nurse will advise the school on the necessary health measures, where necessary, on a case-by-case basis.

Principals are requested to kindly:

- Provide each learner with a Learner Health Questionnaire on the first day that Grades return to school.
- Ensure a 100% return rate of forms by the first Friday of each returning Grade. The Learner Health Questionnaires need to be filed by each class teacher for future reference.
- Ensure that the School Based Support Team or School Management Team meet with the school health nurse and parents / guardian of the learners with comorbidities to discuss the necessary safety measures and ongoing access to education. If more advice is needed, the learner's doctor may be contacted.
- Ensure that the safety measures for learners with comorbidities, as advised by the school health nurse or doctor, are adhered to.
- Ensure that the provincial education department's (PED's) Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) Provincial Coordinator is contacted if you are unable to print copies of the Learner Health Questionnaire for each learner.

The safety of all learners is dependent on close collaboration between principals and school health nurses. Please continue to collaborate with your counterparts in this regard.

Yours sincerely

MR HM MWELI

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: [26/05/2020](#)