PRESS CONFERENCE

BY

HON. MRS L.D.DOOKUN-LUCHOOMUN, GCSK

VICE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Resumption of Pre-Primary Schools

Resumption of Pre-Primary Sub-Sector

- **Monday 22 June 2020** on a phased and staggered basis as follows:
  - For children aged
    - 3 years : 2 days
    - 4 & 5 years : 3 days
Resumption of Primary Schools

Resumption of Primary Schools: 2 phases

Phase 1 (Upper Primary - Grades 4 to 6 only): Saturday 01 August 2020

• From Saturday 01 August 2020 up to Friday 11th September 2020 only Grades 4, 5 and 6 will attend classes during the week (full day).
• Saturday 12 September 2020: Familiarisation & Sensitisation

Phase 2 (All Grades Primary): MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020 onwards

• Grades 1, 2 and 3 (2 days morning sessions only) and
• Grades 4, 5 and 6 (3 full days)
Resumption of Secondary Schools

Resumption of Secondary Schools: 2 phases

Phase 1 (Upper Secondary): Saturday 01 August 2020
Grades 10, 11, 12 and 13 only (5 full days)

Saturday 12 September 2020: Familiarisation and sensitisation
Phase 2 (All Grades Secondary)
MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020
Grades 7, 8 and 9 (2 full days)
Grades 10, 11, 12 and 13 (3 full days)
Resumption of Higher Education Institutions

Resumption of Higher Education Sector

- Saturday 01 August 2020

- Studies mostly through the distance and online mode—except for those who would be required to call at the Higher Education Institutions for practical and final examinations.

- Exceptionally for the University of Mauritius and the Open University of Mauritius, examinations have been planned as from 1st July 2020. The social distancing and sanitary conditions will be strictly observed for these students as well.
Resumption of Special Education Needs (SEN) Schools

Special Education Needs (SEN)

- Resumption on Saturday 01 August 2020
- phased resumption in accordance with the prevailing social distancing measures and sanitary measures.
- NGOs running SEN Schools will be asked to follow the same protocol.
- Therapy classes will also be carried out according to Sanitary guidelines.
- Social distancing will be respected in school vans and buses.
Meeting with Parents

• **Saturday 01 August 2020**

• Meeting with parents

• Preparation of students and parents for the “new normal” in terms of classes
Phase 2 for Primary Schools

- Saturday 12 September 2020: Familiarisation & Sensitisation

Phase 2 (All Grades Primary): MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020 onwards

- Grades 1, 2 and 3 (2 days morning sessions only) and
- Grades 4, 5 and 6 (3 full days)
Phase 2 for Secondary Schools

Saturday 12 September 2020: Familiarisation and sensitisation

Phase 2 (All Grades Secondary)

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020
Grades 7, 8 and 9 (2 full days)
Grades 10, 11, 12 and 13 (3 full days)
PROTOCOL SUMMARY
Sanitary and Social Distancing Conditions

• 1.0 Sanitary Conditions
• 1.1 Prior to school resumption
• Rapid testing for Covid-19 of all teaching and non-teaching staff
  The Ministry of Health and Wellness will carry out Rapid Testing for all teaching and non-teaching staff prior to school resumption.
• Cleaning of school compound, yard and water tanks.
• Cleaning and disinfection of school buildings and classrooms.
• Disinfection of high touch places such as railings, tables, chairs, sports equipment, door and window handles, teaching and learning aids etc. (furniture, whiteboards)

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Sanitary and Social Distancing Conditions

• Ensuring availability of clean water supply and hand wash in toilets.
• Availability of covered bins for disposal of used tissues.
• Availability of adequate supply of cleaning supplies and equipment.
• Eligible support staff to be provided with appropriate gloves and face masks during cleaning and disinfection activities and they will be encouraged to practice regular hand washing.
• Use of alcohol based hand sanitizers at strategic points.
• Signage, markings and visual aids/tapes to be used to facilitate physical distancing in school compound, classrooms, waiting area for school buses\vans and toilets.
• Designation, demarcation and light furnishing of an isolation room for suspected cases and disinfection of same prior and post utilization.
• Establishment of procedures in case of staff/learners being unwell (Temperature check, Isolation Room and notification of Health authorities and Parents)
During on-going School activities

Upon School Resumption

- Staggered school arrival and dismissal times.
- Presence of police to facilitate the process.
- Mandatory use of masks for students and personnel.
- Daily contactless temperature checks at school entrance for students, teaching and non-teaching staffs.
- Shoe sanitizing and hand sanitizing.
- Staggered lunch time and no assembly; students to remain in class during break under teacher supervision.
- Assigned time slots for regular hand washing.
Social Distancing

With the phased resumption, spacing in classes would have to be adjusted and, in many cases, classes may have to be split. Social distancing of at least one metre would be observed.

Circulars have been issued to schools (state and private secondary schools) requesting them to submit information regarding adequate spacing for split classes and a possible capping at 50% of the school population.

- Splitting of class to ensure social and physical distancing.
- No student going out during breaks
- Desks to be spaced out to comply with 1 m distance. Visual aids/tapes and adequate signage to be used to facilitate process.
- Staggering arrival times and dismissal times to promote social distancing.
- Cancelling morning assemblies, sports events or other activities which would create crowd gathering.
- Schools can make use of dedicated classroom Public Address system wherever available to facilitate remote communication.
Cleaning and disinfecting classrooms daily.

- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch places (railings, tables, sports equipment, door and window handles, teaching and learning aids etc.)
- Ensuring an adequate air flow and ventilation in classes by opening windows.
- Ensuring daily removal and safe disposal of trash.
- Disinfection of classrooms and specialist rooms after each option class.
Toilet cleaning and disinfection.

• Reinforcing frequency of toilet cleaning with appropriate cleaning agents.
• Regular refilling of hand wash.

Reinforce hygienic measures

• Heads of schools to ensure adequate procurement of liquid soap and alcohol-based hand rub as well as availability of clean water supply.
• Schools and educators should reinforce regular hand washing practices with water and soap.
• Students and pupils should ensure social distancing at all times; within classrooms, in toilets as well as in the school compound and outside of school premises.
• Use of tissue rolls for adequate wiping of hands.
• Use of covered bins for disposal of used tissues.
Close monitoring of situation

• Close monitoring of prevailing sanitary conditions

• Arrangements may be reviewed in case of changes in conditions at national level
# New School Calendar 2020-2021

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<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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| 1st  | Grade 1 and Grade 7  
   | Friday 10 January to Wednesday 18 March 2020 |
|      | Grades 2-6 and Grades 8-13  
   | Monday 13 January to Wednesday 18 March 2020 |
|      | Easter Holidays-23 March to 05 April 2020 (2 Weeks) and Covid break |
| 2nd  | Saturday 01 August 2020 to Friday 18 December 2020 |
|      | Holidays- 3 Weeks (December 2020-January 2021) |
| 3rd  | Thursday 07 January 2021 to Friday 26 March 2021 |
Timing of Assessments & Examinations

New Timings for Main Assessments and Examinations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Tentative dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Modular Assessment (Science, History and Geography)</td>
<td>Week 1 of December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>PSAC Assessment</td>
<td>March 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Modular Assessment</td>
<td>March 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>NCE Assessment</td>
<td>April 2021</td>
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<td>SC/HSC Exams</td>
<td>International examinations</td>
<td>April/May/June 2021</td>
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Efforts at national level in continuation of learning

• Continuous synergy in ensuring continuation of learning

• Joint efforts of MIE, MGI, Ministry, MBC, QA, OUM, Schools, Teachers preparing contents, educators doing online learning

• Teaching break between 15th June to 14th July

• Educators are back in schools, as from 15th July, to prepare resumption