



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Mr Mosuwe

### **LEARNERS WITH COMORBIDITIES DURING COVID-19: CIRCULAR TO SCHOOLS**

As the sector gears up towards re-opening amid the current COVID-19 challenge, I wish to thank you and your staff for the hard work and the ongoing support and collaboration that has brought us thus far.

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.

It is strongly advised that your Department should 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 re-opening. The school health nurse will advise the school on the necessary health measures, where necessary, on a case-by-case basis. You are requested to send the circular to all districts and schools.

It is the Provincial Education Department's (PED's) Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) Provincial Coordinator's responsibility to ensure that every school in the province has adequate copies of the Learner Health Questionnaire for each child. If schools are unable to print copies for learners, the ISHP Provincial Coordinators must be notified so that they are able to provide copies to the school(s). Should you require additional information, please contact the above mentioned official.

Thank you once again for your assistance and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HM Mweli', with a stylized, cursive script.

**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 26 MAY 2020**