



General

“Every Child Can Learn... Every Child Must Learn”

Schools' Bulletin

**ATTENTION: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMEN AND PRINCIPALS
OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF FACE TO FACE INSTRUCTION FOR THE REGISTRANTS OF
2021 EXIT EXAMINATIONS**

Dear Colleagues,

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Information uses this medium to advise our stakeholders that the inclusion/resumption of face-to-face engagement for students preparing for the 2021 sitting of exit examinations constitutes a timely and much needed intervention to better enable students to adequately prepare for their exit examinations. To that end, the Cabinet has given approval for the resumption of face to face instructions effective **Monday May 10, 2021** for those students sitting PEP 6 Ability Test, and those in Grades 11-13 to sit the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE), City & Guilds, the National Vocational Qualification – Jamaica (NVQ-J) and the CVQ.

Under this arrangement school administrators should follow the guidelines below:

- All primary and secondary schools are allowed to offer the inclusion of face-to-face instruction effective **May 10, 2021** on the basis that the COVID-19 infection prevention and control protocols are established, enforced and strictly adhered to at the schools. These schools must be approved as satisfactory by the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) before face-to-face classes can commence.
- Use a whole day/rotational approach based on resources available (space, staffing etc.) to facilitate the inclusion of face-to-face engagement for students sitting the 2021 exit examinations. This means that only subset of each cohort of students should be at school each day while others will work remotely. No more than 50% of each cohort should be at school at the same time. Schools with total enrolment of 120 or below can schedule their full cohort daily.
- Ensure a system is in place for all the teachers involved in the face-to-face instructions to be vaccinated as part of the infection, prevention and control measures. Approximately 7500 teachers are already vaccinated, and plans are in place for others to be vaccinated commencing May 6, 2021.
- Coordinate with parents and local transport providers to ensure the safe movement of students to and from school. Where there is need for transportation support for students/families who are experiencing severe financial challenges, the Ministry will provide support. Please refer to General Bulletin 81/2021 regarding transportation of students participating in face-to-face instructions.

Dr. Kasan Troupe, JP
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

-----May 7, 2021-----

- Rearrange the seating in all classrooms in keeping with the social/physical distancing guidelines, which require students being 3 to 6 feet apart.
- Modify the timetable to ensure that teachers are appropriately deployed to attend to the students and as much as is possible make arrangements to ensure that the entire examination cohort is not scheduled to attend school all at once. Psychosocial sessions must be timetabled for all students and teachers to help them to cope with the changes imposed on them as a result of the pandemic. Special consideration should be given to students with co-morbidities or underlying health conditions that increase their risks of contracting the COVID-19 virus.
- Develop plans for the use and distribution of basic equipment and materials needed for sanitization purposes such as temperature check machines, hand-washing solutions/stations, masks, alcohol, sanitizers, and other personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Deploy staff to clean and disinfect/sanitize school buildings, classrooms and other facilities prior to the resumption of school and according to a daily routine while school is in operation.
- Coordinate the training of staff and students on implementing physical distancing and other precautionary/hygiene practices to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- Develop a monitoring mechanism to ensure that precautionary measures are never compromised.
- Coordinate a modified arrangement for the provision of meals at the class level to avoid large gatherings.
- Prepare a space and appropriate protocols to treat with students and staff who may become ill or show symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.

For additional information or queries, please contact the Regional Office.

Dr. Kasan Troupe, JP
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

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