

CORONAVIRUS ORIENTATION

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TEAM (SMT)

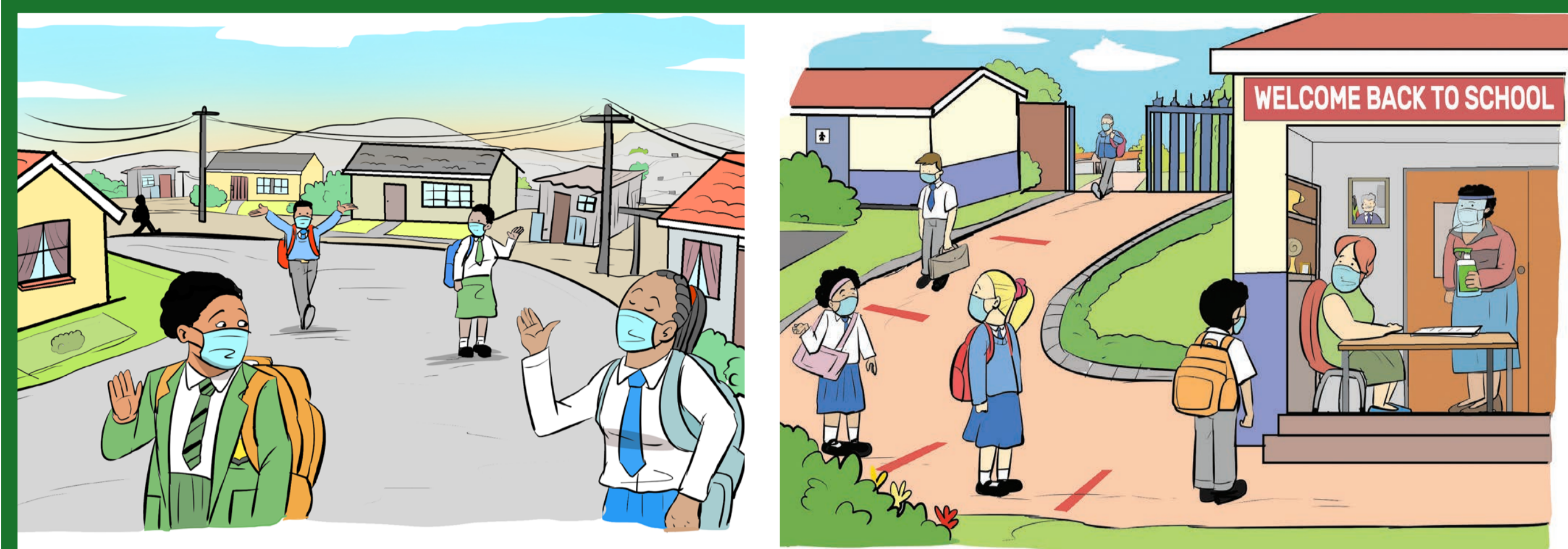
Create the Conditions to Ensure a Safe and Secure Return of Learners and Staff to School

Schooling models must continue to provide welcoming, respectful, inclusive and supportive environments to all while preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Back to School Orientation

The following key activities will take place on return to school:

- ▶ Orientation of the SMT, teachers and support staff on the management of COVID-19 at school.
- ▶ Agreement on safety and hygiene procedures at school.
- ▶ Orientation of the SMT and teachers on the use of the revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATP) and trimmed Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS).
- ▶ Reorganisation of the school timetable in line with the phased-in return of learners and the revised ATPs and CAPS.



Put Safety and Hygiene Procedures in Place



- ▶ Everyone who enters or leaves school premises must wash or sanitise their hands at the entrance/gate.
- ▶ Everyone who enters a school should have their temperature checked.
- ▶ Everyone should keep 1.5 metres from others, wear a mask and wash hands regularly.
- ▶ Learners and staff should be screened everyday.
- ▶ If you are sick, stay at home.

What to do when a learner shows COVID-19 symptoms

When a learner has symptoms such as dry cough, high fever, respiratory distress, shortness of breath or a sore throat, the following procedure must be observed:

1. Isolate the learners until they can be assessed by a health professional.
2. Provide the learners with a face mask if they don't already have one.
3. Inform parents or guardians immediately.
4. Call the school nurse or the facility manager of the nearest health facility, the NICD toll-free emergency hotline for COVID-19 (0800 029 999) or the provincial officials whose details are listed in the DBE Standard Operating procedures for COVID-19.
5. The school will be advised on any further actions to be taken.

CAPS Trimmed and ATPs Revised for the 2020 Academic Year

Amendments to the CAPS for the 2020 Academic Year

The following documents are available on the DBE website (<https://www.education.gov.za>):

1. Revised Content Overview per phase per subject per grade (CAPS Section 3)
2. Revised Annual Teaching Plan per grade per subject (CAPS Section 3)
3. PowerPoint presentations per subject, per grade to be used in the Mediation sessions

Summative assessment has been reduced to create space for more teaching time.

In all grades

The June examination has been cancelled. Schools will administer a final controlled examination only in key subjects in Grades 4 to Grade 11. Key learning gaps will be identified and remediated in the subsequent grade.

In Grade 12

The curriculum has not been trimmed, but reorganised to allow for more efficient time management.



Organise School Timetable for the Phased-in Return of Learners



Recovering lost teaching and learning time may require differentiated timetabling approaches.

Sometimes a combination of models may be necessary, e.g. both platooning and alternative days may be implemented to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are adhered to without compromising teaching and learning. No one model will be perfect and each will impact differently on learners, teachers and support staff.

The following must be considered when choosing a model suitable to the school:

- ▶ Availability of teachers and support staff for the approach selected by the school community

- ▶ Availability of classrooms to accommodate learners sitting at least 1.5m apart
- ▶ Availability of desks to allow for one learner at a desk
- ▶ Amount of time available in a day to determine the duration of the period by subject (e.g. 30, 45 or 60 min) and cover the scope of the curriculum to save the academic year
- ▶ Amount of curriculum to be covered
- ▶ Ability of the school to provide online support to learners at home
- ▶ Learner transport arrangements to school
- ▶ Availability of adequate staff to supervise learners accommodated in hostels
- ▶ Keeping all curriculum enrichment programmes on hold until further notice

Provide Emotional Support to Learners, Teachers, Support Staff and Parents

Sources of psychological support

In addition to health professionals, the Employee Assistance Programme in your provincial education department is available to provide psychological support. The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) helpline is 0800 567 567 or send a SMS to 31393.

Further contact details:

Childline Hotline: 08000 55 555
Lovelife Free Plz Call Me: 083 323 1023
LifeLine Toll Free: 086 132 2322
Substance Abuse Line 0800 12 13 14 or SMS 32312

Mitigating stigma and fear about COVID-19

Learners, teachers and school management have a responsibility to care for themselves and each other.

Promote the following practices in your school to prevent loneliness, and to support those experiencing distress, anxiety and/or depression.

- ▶ Teach each class about emotions – how to handle or react to fear, anxiety and depression.
- ▶ Teach and encourage positive self-talk.
- ▶ Provide material support.
- ▶ Provide counselling.
- ▶ Refer specialised services to those who need it.

Self-care

- ▶ Avoid too much COVID-19 media and social media coverage.
- ▶ Maintain a healthy diet and positive lifestyle.
- ▶ Maintain positive thinking and foster hope.
- ▶ Take time to unwind.
- ▶ Practice social distancing when in groups.

What are the signs that someone needs help?

- ▶ Persistent fear, worry and anxiousness
 - ▶ Persistent sadness, hopelessness and other overwhelming emotions
 - ▶ Withdrawal from others (the kind that is different from the social distancing prescribed by the Department of Health)
 - ▶ Loss of interest in personal appearance and unusual lack of energy
 - ▶ Expressing rage or anger at the world
 - ▶ Missing work or classes
 - ▶ Use/increased use of drugs or alcohol
- (NB: The above list is not comprehensive)

