



Solomon Islands
Government

Ministry of
Education and
Human Resources
Development



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Ref: Statement 2/PS/COVID-19

Date: Monday 30 March 2020

To: **All Education Authorities**
All Provinces

Dear Director, Secretary, and Chief Education Officer,

Subject: Advice to Close all remaining schools in the country

1. I write with reference to the first statement I made on 20 March 2020 regarding the instruction I issued to Education Authorities to close schools in Honiara and Guadalcanal.
2. The Senior Management Team and I have decided that the remaining schools, which are still open, must close by today Monday 30 March, 2020. We are aware that two provinces have already closed their schools as of Thursday 22 March after receiving directives from their respective Education Authorities and Provincial Governments.
3. As the State of Public Emergency has been declared, Prime Minister has issued a set of orders with clear objectives; that **“our efforts must be focused firstly in protecting the country from the entrance of this serious threat to our national security, and secondly, to control the spread of the virus if it slipped through.”**
4. In response, given that Honiara and Guadalcanal schools have been closed and Honiara residences are repatriating home to their provinces in unprecedented numbers at this time of the year, which is causing anxiety, panic, confusion amongst schools and Education Authorities, **I hereby declare that all remaining schools and early childhood centres for the rest of the country must close as of today, Monday 30 March 2020.** This decision is taken as a precautionary measure to protect our people and country from the threat of COVID-19.
5. All students should return to their villages or homes and to remain with their parents or guardians till further advice is received from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development.



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6. Teachers are advised to return to their homes if they feel that where they are residing now is not safe. They must seek, as advised by the Prime Minister, to use the transport available to their home constituents to travel to their villages or homes. The teachers should also seek support from their school principal.
7. Given the current situation with COVID-19 and the threat it poses on our people and country, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development Senior Management Team has again reviewed the school calendar and made a decision that all schools will reopen on **Monday 27 April 2020.**
8. The Ministry of Education and the Human Resource Development will inform or advise all Education Authorities, school principals, students, and parents a week before 27 April 2020, should the COVID-19 situation in the country changes.
9. Education Authorities, school principals, students and parents are reminded to take simple steps during this unprecedented time, to keep yourselves and your community healthy:
 - **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.**
 - **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.**
 - **Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.**
 - **If you think you may have symptoms of the coronavirus, Please call your healthcare provider or nearest clinic and seek help.**
10. Again let me appeal to you all not to panic. Be calm and do the right thing. Do not listen to false rumours or misinformation or even get confused on what to do. My Ministry will continue to advise you on the steps you should take to protect our students, teachers and their families as well as the wider community.
11. Thank you.

Franco Rodie
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

Monday 30 April 2020



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