



Solomon Islands  
Government

Ministry of  
Education and  
Human Resources  
Development



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To: Provincial Education Authorities  
Faith Based Education Authorities  
Private Education Authorities

Dear Chief Education Officers  
Directors of Education Authorities  
Secretary to Education Authorities

**Subject: Resumption of Classes in Schools**

I am writing, following the announcement I made during the SIBC Talk Back Show organised by the COVID-19 Oversight Committee yesterday afternoon (Sunday 19 April 2020) regarding the restart of classes in schools.

After careful consideration of Government's preparedness and response plans to combat the threat of coronavirus in our country, my Ministry is pleased to inform you all that the restart of Term 1 classes in schools in the country will happen in two key stages and as follows.

- All Form 3, 5 and 6 students in all secondary schools in the Provinces (**except schools in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Noro, Munda area (ie. Goldie College, Kokeqolo, and Biulah PSS), community high schools near Taro/Choiseul Province headquarter and Shortland**) will resume classes on Monday 27 April, 2020.
- All Form 3, 5, and 6 students are advised to return to their schools starting this week beginning 20 April, (**except schools in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Noro, Munda area (ie. Goldie College, Kokeqolo, and Biulah PSS), community high schools near Taro/Choiseul Province headquarter and Shortland**).
- Teachers in the year levels mentioned above should return to schools (if they have returned to their villages) beginning this week 20 April, (**except teachers in schools in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Noro, Munda area (ie. Goldie College, Kokeqolo, and Biulah PSS), community high schools near Taro/Choiseul Province headquarter and Shortland**).
- The date for the restart of classes in schools in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Noro, Munda area (ie. Goldie College, Kokeqolo and Biulah PSS), Community High Schools near



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Taro/Choiseul Province headquarter and Shortland) will be announced by MEHRD on a later date.

- All students in other year levels such as Early Childhood Education, Primary (years 1 to 6) Form 1, 2 and 4 are to remain at home until further advice.
- All Rural Training Centres and post-secondary education institutions including Higher Education Institutions such as the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the University of the South Pacific (USP), Solomon Islands Campus will announce through their senior management teams, the date for the resumption of face-to-face classes in their respective institutions.
- Education Authorities, school principals, teachers, students and parents are informed that the decision to restart classes (except schools in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Noro, Munda area (ie. Goldie College, Kokeqolo, and Biulah PSS), community high schools near Taro/Choiseul Province headquarter and Shortland) for the selected year levels in schools in the provinces is made on the following reasons.
  - Current Form 3, 5 and 6 students have important high stakes External Examinations to take at the end of the year and need to catch up with the topics they need to cover in order to prepare for the examinations.
  - Honiara and Guadalcanal, port of Noro and more recently the border between Bougainville/PNG and Shortland/SI are potential areas that persons infected/carriers of the covid-19 is likely to enter and spread the disease and so schools in these areas are to remain closed till further advice.
  - To minimize overcrowding of schools and to enforce stringent health and hygiene practices amongst few students such as social distancing, handwashing and to cater for water and sanitation facilities. This is important during the current state of emergency when orders and regulations are being enforced by the Government agencies and to condition the behaviour of small population of students at the schools so that they are well prepared for any potential outbreak of the coronavirus.

It is important to understand that my Ministry has made a decision to restart classes in schools in stages and the recommendation with advice from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services was approved by the COVID-19 Oversight Committee.



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Since the closure of schools, students' learning have been impacted to a certain extent. If we prolong the reopening of classes in our schools, this would have serious implications not only the education of our students, but also the entire education sector.

My Ministry has seriously considered certain indicators and or conditions to determine the restart of Term 1 classes in schools. These are as follows.

- Our borders are closed and strict orders and regulations are being applied or imposed on visitors, shippers and nationals that wish to cross borders or to return to the country.
- Medical facilities and equipment including testing kits for coronavirus are available now and these will be used by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services frontline officers, to detect and isolate and assist citizens needing medical attention should there be an outbreak of the coronavirus in the country.
- Quarantine centres and or facilities have been built and are available for isolation.
- Government Preparedness and Response Action Plans have been approved and being implemented to protect/safeguard citizens and the country against coronavirus.
- Measures taken under the existing State of Emergency is working and our people are responding well and adhering to them.
- There is NO confirmed coronavirus case in Honiara or in the country.
- Our belief and commitment that the measures and successful implementation of our preparedness and response plans will produce the expected outcomes – that is, these will prevent entry or outbreak of the deadly coronavirus in the country.

Details of the information and actions that my Ministry would like Education Authorities and school leaders to do or implement at the school level will be broadcasted by the Chair and Secretary of the MEHRD Communication Committee in the SIBC today (Monday 20 April at 5:45pm) and Tuesday 21 April, 7:45 am.

Stay safe and healthy.

Yours respectfully,

Franco Rodie, PhD  
Permanent Secretary