



SECRETARY

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Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Education

— Rethinking Education —



Ref No.: DSE/SPCD/EEOC (1)/2020/ 552

Dated: 17th March 2020

Dasho Dzongdag/Thrompon,
Dzongkhag/Thromde Administration,
All Dzongkhags/Thromdes.

Subject: Advisory Note on the closure of the Schools and Centres

Dear Dashos,

In continuation to the earlier advisory note issued vide letter no. DSE/SPCD/EEOC (1)/2020/523, dated 12th March 2020, Dashos are requested to instruct the Chief DEOs/TEOs to disseminate the following information to the Schools, ECCD, NFE/CLC and Youth Centres, and closely support and monitor the developments.

- 1) Sensitize children, students, learners, and parents on the reasons for closing the schools and centres.
- 2) Schools to ensure safe return of boarding students to their homes. Schools may arrange transportation services for students whose parents/guardians are unable to pick them up.
- 3) Upon the closure, schools and centres to report the number of students, children, staff and learners to the Dzongkhags/Thromdes.
- 4) All Schools and centres to keep communication link with students and parents.
- 5) While the schools are closed, teachers instruct students to spend their time meaningfully while at home.
- 6) To compensate the loss of instructional hours, (a) literacy and numeracy based teaching for primary classes, and (b) theme based teaching for secondary classes, will be broadcasted through Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation and other platforms.
- 7) All students to refrain from loitering in public places and large gatherings.
- 8) All staff in the schools, NFE/CLC, ECCD and Youth Centres be available to provide support whenever necessary, and attend to all phone calls on priority.
- 9) Schools must ensure access to counseling services, if required. Additionally, students and staff are advised to avail "Sherig Counseling Services" on Facebook for counseling services.

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- 10) Schools/ECCD/NFE/CLC/Youth Centres to follow the notification and messages issued from the Office of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health.
- 11) Furthermore, the schools and centres are directed to remind the following preventive measures:
- Wash hands frequently using water and soap, or using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, especially before and after meals, and using toilets.
 - Maintain at least one meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
 - If you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache and slight runny nose, stay at home until you recover. However, if you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, contact the nearest health centre.

Yours Sincerely,

(Karma Tshering)

Offg. Secretary

Copy to:

- Hon'ble *Sherig* Lyonpo for kind information.
- Principal Secretary to His Excellency the Prime Minister for kind information.
- Heads of Departments (DSE, DAHE, DYS, DoS) for kind information.
- Director General, Royal Education Council, Paro for kind information.
- Director, Bhutan Council for School Examinations and Assessment for kind information.
- Chief SPCD, DSE, MoE for kind information.
- Chief PPD, MoE for kind information.
- Chief DEO/TEO, all Dzongkhags/Thromdes for immediate follow-up.
- Office copy.