



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

Private Bag X174, PRETORIA, 001, 123 Francis Baard Street PRETORIA 0002 South Africa

Enquiries: Mr TH Msipha Tel: (012) 312- 5580

Fax: (012) 328 3322

e-mail: Msipha.t@dhet.gov.za

DATE: 18 March 2020

RE: MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO COMBAT COVID-19 EPIDEMIC AT TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COLLEGES

To: All TVET College Principals

All Regional Managers

Following the declaration of the national state of disaster by President Ramaphosa on 15 March 2020 and the release of the media statement by Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Nzimande (17 March 2020), 'Statement on measures to deal with the COVID-19 threat in the post-school education and training sector', the following measures are to be implemented with immediate effect at Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges. These measures should be read and implemented together with the '*Guidelines for the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) Institutions on COVID-19 outbreak*'.

1. TEACHING AND LEARNING

- i. All TVET colleges will be closed for early recess on 18 March 2020 and are expected to reopen on 15 April 2020. All contact lectures should be stopped immediately.
- ii. Examinations for NATED (Engineering Studies) which were scheduled to commence on 30 March 2020 have been postponed. The examination time-table will be revised and communicated to trimester 1 students and staff.
- iii. Students are advised to continue preparing for examinations. Lecturers should issue assignments/tasks to students to complete during this recess in order to equip them to be ready for examinations upon their return.

- iv. The procedures applicable for college residences during recess should be applied. Students are expected to vacate residences by 20 March 2020.

2. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- i. Lecturing staff should plan to return to colleges on 14 April 2020.
- ii. Staff working at central/administration offices should report for work.
- iii. Support staff at TVET colleges should make arrangements for special leave with their Principals and/or supervisors.

3. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

- i. All students and staff are encouraged to take the following precautionary measures at all times.
 - a) Regularly wash your hands with soap and water, at least for 20 seconds or use a 60% alcohol based sanitizer.
 - b) Keep a social distance of about 1.5 m
 - c) Avoid social spaces which can expose you to the COVID-19 virus (i.e. large gatherings and meetings, sporting, recreational and social events).
- ii. Staff and students should rely only on information released officially by the Department of Health.

Mr GF Qonde

Director-General: Higher Education and Training

Date: