



higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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COMMUNIQUE TO PRIVATE COLLEGES REGARDING THEIR PREPARATIONS AND STATE OF READINESS TO RESUME 2020 ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation's "*STATEMENT ON THE MEASURES TO PHASEOUT THE LOCKDOWN AND PHASING IN OF PSET STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS*", I would like to direct all private colleges registered in terms of the *Continuing Education and Training Act, 2006 (Act no. of 2006)* as follows.

1. The Minister's statement indicates that the measures contained therein apply to both private and public institutions.
2. These measures aim at preparing the Post School Education and Training (PSET) sector, of which private colleges are a part, for reopening and they should be undertaken during the Level 4 lockdown period.
3. Private colleges may not, under any circumstances during Level 4 lockdown period, resume contact teaching and learning activities. They will only do so on a date yet to be determined and announced by the Minister.
4. Where private colleges utilise digital teaching and learning platforms, consideration should be given to the myriads of students who may not have gadgets and data to access such. Therefore upon resumption of contact teaching and learning all such teaching and learning should not be considered since the majority of students would not have received digital teaching and learning for reasons cited above.
5. The 2020 academic year will be reorganised to enable students to complete the respective learning programmes for which they enrolled Examinations will also be restructured to ensure students do write examinations for their studies.
6. In preparation for reopening of the 2020 academic year within the context of COVID-19 pandemic, private colleges must take all necessary precautions and measures to ensure the safety and protection of all on their premises against COVID-19 by doing the following:

- a) Procuring the requisite cleaning materials and relevant protective gear for the cleaning staff and others that might require it in the execution of their duties. Purchasing equipment for screening purposes of both students and staff;
 - b) Embarking on deep cleaning of offices, lecture halls/classrooms, student centres and any other places that might expose students and staff to contract COVID- 19. Deep cleaning to take the form of disinfection and decontamination. More information on deep cleaning can be gleaned from “*Protocol on Routine Cleaning for COVID-19 Prevention within Post School Education and Training (PSET) Institutions, 7 May 2020*” on www.higherhealth.ac.za. This document is updated on regular basis.
 - c) Reorganising seating arrangements in lecture halls/classrooms to allow for social distancing among students and between students and lecturers;
 - d) Developing implementable guidelines on managing the screening of lecturers, students and other employees. “*Protocol on Screening, Testing & Linkage to Care for COVID-19 Programme within the Post School Education and Training (PSET) Sector, May 2020*” provides more information in this regard. This document is available at www.higherhealth.ac.za.
7. Each private college must submit a concise report regarding progress made on each of the four areas outlined above [a),b),c) and d)] to Buthelezi.M@dhet.gov.za on or before **25 May 2020** for the attention of the Registrar of Private Colleges. The report to cover all sites of delivery of a private college where applicable.
8. Private colleges that fail to submit the said report by the due date will be deemed to be not yet ready to resume contact teaching and learning on a date to be determined and announced by the Minister.



Ms A Singh

Registrar: Private Colleges

Date: 12 May 2020