HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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HIGHLIGHTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION MINISTER DR BLADE NZIMANDE'S 9 JUNE 2020 MEDIA BRIEFING

#SaveLives #SaveTheAcademicYear

WHATSAPP SUPPORT
0600 123 456
EMERGENCY NUMBER
0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2030 NDP

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BACK TO CAMPUS UNIVERSITIES

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PLAN

WHAT TO DO

Under Level 4, the controlled return of final year students in programmes requiring clinical training, starting with medicine (MBChB) and the phasing-in of all other programmes, such as Nursing, Dental and Veterinary Sciences was allowed. Under Level 3, a maximum of 33% of the student population will be allowed to return to campuses, delivery sites and residences on condition that they can be safely accommodated and supported in line with the health and safety protocols as directed by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

This will include the following cohorts:

1. All groups that have already returned during Level 4;
2. Students in the final year of their programmes, who are on a path to graduating in 2020;
3. Final year students **who require access** to labs, technical equipment, data, connectivity and residences, as well private accommodation;
4. Students in all years of study that require clinical training in their programmes (provided that the clinical training platforms have sufficient space and can accommodate them while adhering to the safety protocols); and
5. Post Graduate students who require lab equipment and other technical equipment to undertake their studies.

The Minister has also made provision that institutions may consider the selected return of other categories of students to residences who may face extreme difficulties in their home learning environments, provided that the above categories are prioritised, and all safety and logistical requirements are met. Directions have accordingly been published.

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BACK TO CAMPUS
RETURN TO RESIDENCIES

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WHAT TO DO

All institutions are urged to follow the national guidelines when deciding on the return of students to residences in line with numbers that can be accommodated to enable physical distancing, the handling of communal spaces, hygiene requirements and dining hall arrangements.

In terms of the phase-in plans for Level 3, the maximum admissible percentage of students per residence identified is 33%. Students who live in private rented accommodation close to campuses may also return provided physical distancing arrangements are in place.

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BACK TO CAMPUS TRAVEL INFORMATION

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What is required for those students allowed back on campus during Level 3?

For TVET Colleges

WHAT TO DO

- College Principals will sign the required permits for those students and staff allowed to return to campus. Please contact the relevant principal.

For Universities

WHAT TO DO

- Universities will identify specific students who are allowed to return and will make contact with them to provide the necessary travel documents.

For Community Education & Training Colleges

WHAT TO DO

- College Principals will sign the required permits for those students and staff allowed to return to campus. Please contact the relevant principal.

If you need more info, call the toll-free number **0800 872 222**.

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BACK TO CAMPUS
TVET COLLEGE STUDENTS

PLAN

WHAT TO DO

The phased-in TVET Colleges tentative academic calendar remains in place.

For Level 3:
NATED Trimester (ENGINEERING) students
N6 & N3: 10 June 2020
N5 & N2: 15 June 2020
N4 & N1: 22 June 2020

NATED Semester (BUSINESS STUDIES) students
N6: 25 June 2020
N5: 29 June 2020
N4: 6 July 2020

NC(V) STUDENTS
Level 4: 13 July 2020
Level 3: 20 July 2020
Level 2: 27 July 2020

A campus-based approach will be applied where colleges are affected by different lockdown levels.

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BACK TO CAMPUS
COMMUNITY EDUCATION & TRAINING

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PLAN

WHAT TO DO

It was previously announced by the Minister that the month of May 2020 would be used to prepare central offices and learning sites for the safe return of staff and students. The Minister's monitoring mechanism has revealed that while management returned to central offices on 25 May 2020, centre managers and lecturers did not return to their work stations on the dates communicated previously. This was due, in part, to delays in the procurement and delivery of COVID-19 essentials such as masks, sanitisers and cleaning services, services for deep-cleaning and fumigation.

Some CET colleges are hosted in schools, without water and sanitation, and have not been allowed by Provincial Departments to open. The CET college staff could not access such centres. Minister has advised officials to ensure suitable arrangements are in place so that teaching and learning can resume from 23 June 2020.

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ZERO RATING OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

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PLAN

WHAT TO DO

The DHET has secured favourable rates for NSFAS students, including the Funza Lushaka students, who will receive **10GB** daytime and **20GB** night-time data for three months, from June to August 2020. The costs will be subsidised by Government.

The zero-rating of Departmental and public institutions' sites (universities; and TVET, CET, nursing, and agricultural colleges) is 86% completed. *Zero-rating means that access to institutional websites will be free, although some of the embedded content like YouTube and videos may be charged.* Find the list of zero-rated sites on www.dhet.gov.za

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ELECTRONIC DEVICES

PLAN

WHAT TO DO

Minister Nzimande confirmed that the central procurement of devices, (particularly laptops) through an open tender system given the nature and the value of the procurement, will commence soon through NSFAS. The Minister added the team is finalising the process of verifying which NSFAS students have acquired devices, in order to avoid mistakenly issuing some students with more than one device. Minister Nzimande has urged patience from students, staff and parents and reiterated his committment no student will be left behind in the effort to save the academic year.

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REMOTE MULTI-MODAL TEACHING AND LEARNING PLANS

PLAN

WHAT TO DO

Minister Nzimande announced his Departments are looking at better ways to implement effective multi-modal, augmented and remote learning systems, by considering the use of Space Science and Earth Observation technologies and platforms in support of plans to reach vulnerable students. Long term solutions to support digital transmission needs for the PSET system include the launch of a locally-produced communications satellite. More details will be announced accordingly.

Read Minister Blade Nzimande's full statement of 9 June 2020 on **www.dhet.gov.za**
Call Centre: 0800 87 2222