



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
ALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS AND OWNERS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

**CC: DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY  
CHIEF DIRECTOR: SCHOOL MANAGEMENT  
CHIEFDIRECTORS: DISTRICT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT**

**FROM: MR EDWARD MOSUWE  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**DATE: 18 JANUARY 2021**

**SUBJECT: COVID-19: 14 DAY DELAY IN THE RE-OPENING OF  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

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1. Compliments of the new season.
2. On Friday, 15 January 2021, the Department of Basic Education declared a 14 day delay in the re-opening of all schools, to mitigate the deepening crisis of Covid-19 infections in the country.
3. All Independent Schools are encouraged to comply with this directive as we await the finalisation of the latest regulations.
4. The Gauteng Department of Education notes that some schools had already planned to open earlier and appreciate the readiness to provide education. However, the current rapid rise of Covid-19 infections demands that we put the needs of the country first.
5. In the past few weeks, we have seen an unprecedented rise of Covid-19 infections and deaths. With the movement of people from other provinces after the festive season, expert advice projects a possible higher increase in infections that may put overwhelming pressure on our health system, if urgent mitigating measures are not implemented.

**COVID-19: REOPENING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

6. The Gauteng Department of Education is cognizant of the fact that some schools have received information that they may be within their rights to re-open, in accordance with their initial plans. However, we plead with schools to see beyond their ability to manage the pandemic internally and what they may perceive as their powers in this regard.  
The decision to delay the re-opening of schools will contribute towards averting extreme pressure on the health system in the province and save lives.
7. We are all urged to play an exemplary role in Nation building as we navigate the complexities of this pandemic. Therefore, compliance with all National Command Council directives is a demonstration of a sense of responsibility towards containing the rampant spread of Covid-19.
8. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the greater good.

Yours Sincerely



**MR EDWARD MOSUWE**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**  
DATE 19/01/2021