



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

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AMENDED CIRCULAR FORM ED: 7/2021

TO: HONOURABLE MINISTER
HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICERS: REGIONAL COUNCILS
ALL DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE
INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION
REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
TEACHERS
NANTU, TUN, NANSO
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

CIRCULAR: AMENDED FORM ED: 7/2021

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO FORMAL EDUCATION CIRCULAR 7 OF 2021: SCHOOL OPERATIONS AMID COVID-19 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This circular amends and effectively replaces Formal Education Circular 7 of 2021 with regard to the school calendar and the operation of school for the remainder of the school year 2021.

2. SCHOOL CALENDAR

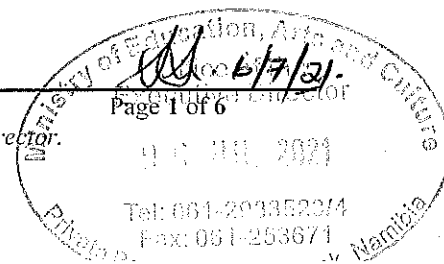
In light of the current trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic the Ministry finds it imperative to further amend the calendar.

2.1 PRE-PRIMARY TO GRADE 9

Pre-Primary to Grade 9 are currently on winter holiday until the 26th of July 2021. We herewith notify all stakeholders that the holiday has been extended until the 3rd of August 2021 and learners should return to school for face-to-face teaching and learning on the 4th of August 2021. Teachers will be required to return to school on the 2nd of August 2021.

Amended F.Ed. Circular 7/2021

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Executive Director.



2.2 GRADE 10, 11 AND ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY

Grade 10, 11 and Advanced Subsidiary (AS) learners are currently on mandatory closure in accordance with the Amendment of Public Health COVID-19 Regulations of the Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015 (Act No 1 of 2015) as in Government Notice No 138. The learners were due to return to school on the 19th of July 2021 for face-to-face teaching and learning. These learners will not return to face-to-face teaching and learning on the 19th, but schools are directed to commence with alternative modes of teaching and learning from the 19th to the 30th of July 2021. Teachers are requested to make use of all available options including offline and online approaches. (Please find attached Annexure 1 for alternative modes of teaching and learning). Grade 10, 11 and AS learners will return for face-to-face teaching and learning on the 4th of August 2021.

Term	School Calendar for Learners Pre-Primary – Grade 9	Days	Grade 10 - AS	Days	School Calendar for Teachers
Term 1 First Day Last Day	26 January 2021 30 April 2021	66	26 January 2021 30 April 2021	66	14 January 2021 05 May 2021
Term 2 First Day Last Day	26 May 2021 25 June 2021	23	26 May 2021 30 June 2021	28	26 May 2021 25 June 2021
Term 3 First Day Mid-term break & Home weekend Last School Day	04 August 2021 01 October to 05 October 2021 15 December 2021	91	04 August 2021 01 October to 05 October 2021 17 December 2021	93	02 August 2021 1 October 2021 to 5 October 2021 (inclusive of Teachers' Day) 17 December 2021
Total		180		187	

2.3 PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Private schools that are following the Namibian curriculum should adhere to the changes as set out in this circular. We are aware that there are private schools that follow alternative curricula and examination timetables and this will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, as it relates to pre-scheduled assessments and examinations.

3. EXAMINATIONS

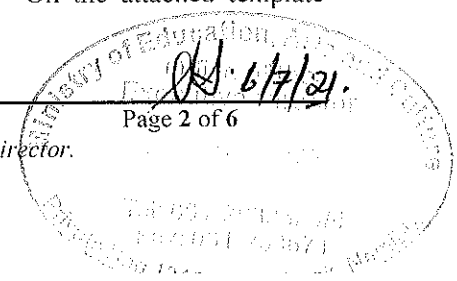
The external examinations for Grade 11, 12 (Legacy Curriculum) and Advanced Subsidiary will commence on the 15th of November 2021 and conclude on the 17th of December 2021, with exception of the early question papers and borrowed syllabi, which will commence as from October 2021.

4. PREPARATION OF SCHOOLS FOR RE-OPENING

Regional Office and School Management are instructed to ensure that schools are appropriately equipped to ensure the safe return of learners, teaching and unified staff.

4.1 LABORATORY/CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

The Ministry dispatched finances to the regions for the procurement of laboratory and consumable materials for the Senior Secondary phase, including Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level. On the attached template



(Annexure 2), the Ministry is requesting that regions provide Head Office with the break-down of support received, money spent and areas of gaps. The due date for the submission of this information is 19th July 2021.

4.2 INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) MATERIALS

Schools are directed to strengthen adherence to COVID-19 health protocols. Schools must ensure that social distancing is adhered to, that the wearing of masks is strictly enforced and that the provision of hand washing and sanitizing are in place. Schools must monitor that learners and education staff are regularly using these facilities.

Hostel management should ensure that the appropriate staff complement is available to receive learners upon the re-opening of schools

Funding was provided to regions for the procurement of IPC materials and schools were also advised to make use of the Primary and Secondary Education Grant allocations to procure materials. In order for the Ministry to be able to provide additional support, Regional Directors are requested to provide Head Office with a break-down of the resources already expended on IPC materials and also the gaps that are within the regions. The due date for the submission of this information is 19th July 2021.

4.3 PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

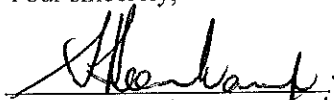
COVID-19 has affected everyone, not only the infected. There are serious mental health implications for learners, teaching and unified staff members. The Ministry therefore implores the school community that the provision of psychosocial support to learners should continue now and also when schools re-open. We further encourage our teachers to also reach out for counselling, therapy and assistance where needed and to practice self-care. Taking care of physical well-being, supports emotional and mental health.

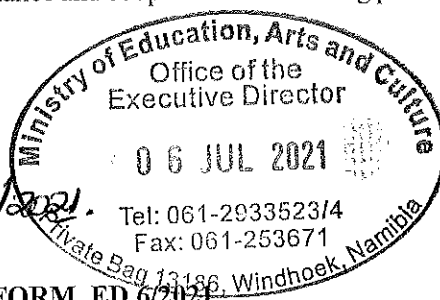
5. VACCINATIONS

Regional Directorates of Education, Arts and Culture are requested to mobilise the regional and school staff members to get vaccinated. Mobile vaccinations units should be organized at a circuit level, in consultation with Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS).

The Ministry counts on your assistance and cooperation in ensuring prudent and compassionate implementation of these provisions.

Your sincerely,


Sanet L. Steenkamp
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PREVIOUS CIRCULAR:

FORM. ED 6/2021

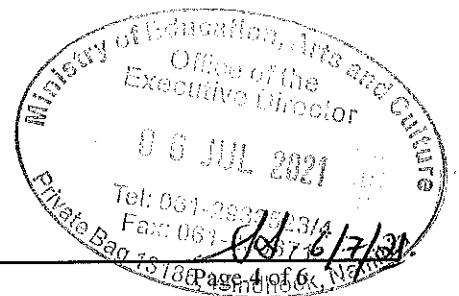
SUBJECT:

CLEANING OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT BY LEARNERS

ADDRESSEES:

HONOURABLE MINISTER
HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICERS: REGIONAL COUNCILS
DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE
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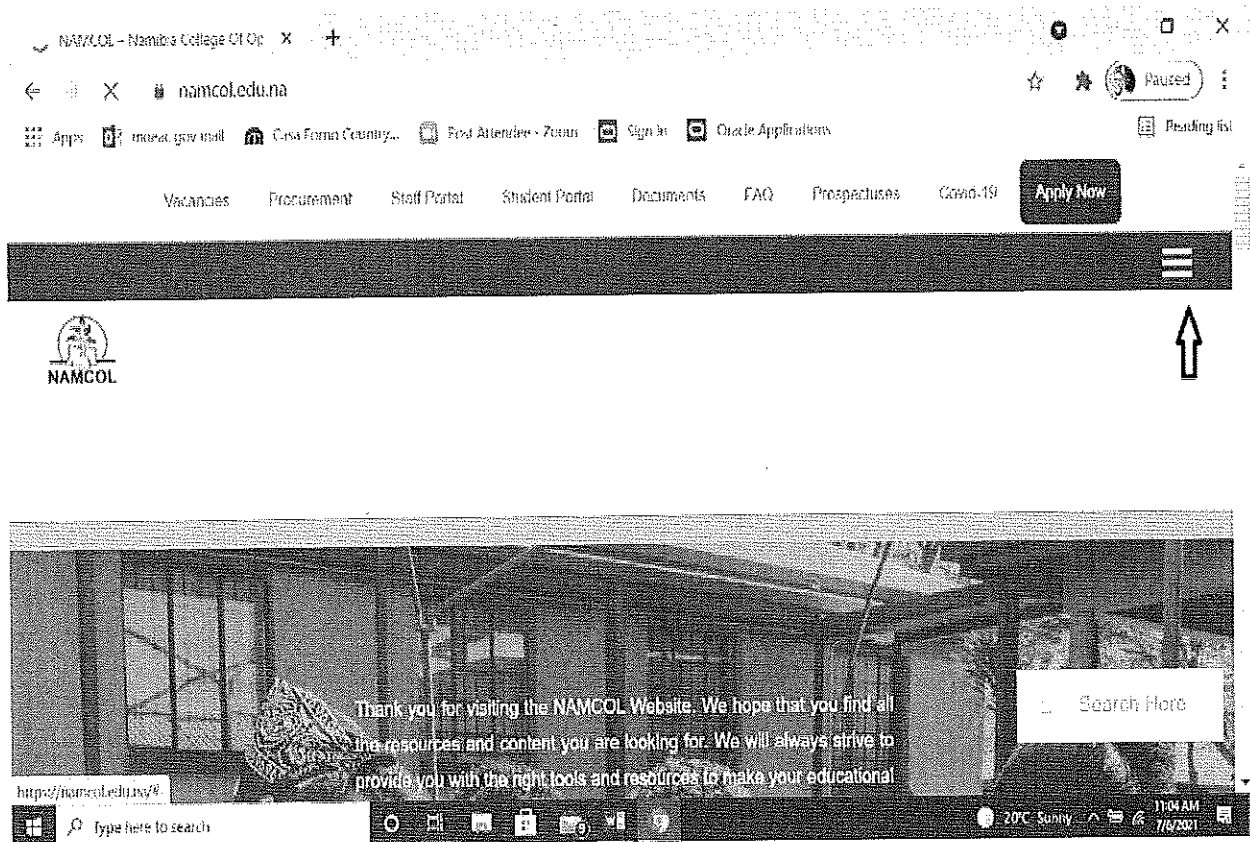
Annexure I

ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

There are various resources available to both teachers and learners to engage with during this time, as follows:

a) NAMCOL E-LEARNING RESOURCES

The Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) has launched learning content for Grades 8 to AS level in all subjects. The lesson content can be accessed on the NAMCOL website (www.namcol.edu.na). When logging onto the page click on the drop down menu on the top right corner (as indicated by the below arrow), where you will be able access the resources.



The same materials can be accessed on One Africa Television:

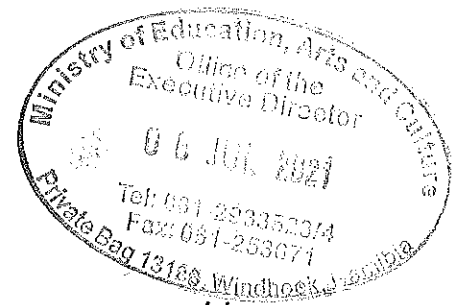
DSTV Channel 284

GoTV Channel 90

Facebook: LearnOnOne Nam

Twitter: One Africa TV

Youtube: One Africa TV



Annexure 2

1. LABORATORY/CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

Funding Received	Materials bought	Materials Available	Materials Outstanding	Remaining Funds

