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To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Circuit Managers, Deputy Directors, Heads of educational institutions and Recognised Employee Parties

Short summary: *Leave arrangements for institution based educators pertaining to incidences of monkeypox infection.*

Subject: Leave arrangements for institution based educators pertaining to incidences of monkeypox infection

1. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has defined the monkeypox virus as an orthopoxvirus that causes a disease with symptoms similar, but less severe, to smallpox. Human-to-human transmission is limited, with the longest documented chain of transmission being six generations, meaning that the last person to be infected in this chain was six links away from the original sick person. As per the WHO, this virus can be transmitted through contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or internal mucosal surfaces, such as in the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets, and contaminated objects.
2. In view of the above, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has issued Human Resource (HR) Circular No. 1 of 2022, dated 27 August 2022, with the purpose of providing the following:
 - 2.1 General information on monkeypox;
 - 2.2 Guidance or arrangements for a leave dispensation for employees with monkeypox; and
 - 2.3 Guidance to schools on the management of suspected or confirmed cases of monkeypox.
3. The scope of the circular will apply to all employees appointed in terms of the Employment of Educators Act, 1998 (Act 76 of 1998).
4. DBE HR Circular No.1 of 2022 is attached to this communication for further distribution and utilisation.

5. Managers are encouraged, within the limitations of COVID-19 protocols, to bring the content of this circular to the attention of all the employees under their supervision, and to note and familiarise themselves with the content of it.

SIGNED: B WALTERS

HEAD: EDUCATION

DATE: 2022-09-19