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File no.: 13/9/2
Enquiries: NF Sobetwa-Magodla

Assessment Management Minute: 0018/2020

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Deputy Directors, Chief Education Specialists, Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Heads: Management and Governance, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Assessment and Examination Coordinators, FET Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Heads of educational institutions that prepare candidates for the National Senior Certificate

Subject: Amended protocol on the writing of the November 2020 National Senior Certificate examination in compliance with COVID-19 requirements

1. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has amended the *Protocol on the writing of the 2020 November examination in compliance with COVID-19 requirements*. Therefore, Assessment Management Minute: 0015/2020, dated 06 October 2020, is replaced by this minute and the attached amended protocol document.
2. The DBE amendments relate to the following:
 - 2.1 Examination rooms must be cleaned and disinfected prior to the commencement of the examinations and prior to every examination session thereafter. **Decontamination** is only required after the identification of a COVID-19 infection in that room (refer to clause 5.10 and 5.11).
 - 2.2 All ablution facilities must be cleaned daily and not deep-cleaned (refer to clause 5.12).
 - 2.3 Candidates **should NOT be allowed to take mask breaks**. A mask break should only be allowed if the learner has an underlying condition and has a problem breathing.

- 2.4 A candidate whose temperature is consistently above 38°C after the regular 10-minute checks in the first 30 minutes must be taken to the isolation room at the centre for the candidate to sit for the examination. **The examination may be conducted in the isolation room for candidates who present a temperature above 38°C and are deemed able to sit for the examination**, or in an open well-defined and visible space such as a veranda or corridor/passage, provided it is isolated and has no access to other persons. The parent/guardian(s) should immediately be informed that his/her son/daughter/ward has presented a temperature above 38 °C and will therefore be writing the examination in an isolation room. The parent/guardian must also be directed to seek medical assistance from health practitioners, which should be done after the examination session.
- 2.5 Adherence to social distancing and other standard precautions will be of utmost importance in the isolation room/area. Normal invigilation rules will apply in the isolation room and social distancing may be extended to 2 metres in the isolation room, depending on the number of candidates present. Invigilators must be reassured that provided the rules of social distancing, wearing masks and sanitising hands are strictly observed, their personal safety is not at risk. Invigilators could be provided with face shields in addition to masks, where possible.
- 2.6 These candidates must not socialise or have any contact with other candidates before or after the examination. They should remain in the isolation room/area until the other candidates have dispersed and should ideally be accompanied home or have other arrangements made to ensure that no contact with other candidates occurs. Testing for COVID-19 is also recommended and will be determined by the treating health practitioner.
- 2.7 The **COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire** has been amended in line with the latest Department of Health screening tool. See **Annexure A** of the attached amended protocol.
3. We apologise for this late notification which was received during the late afternoon on 03 November 2020 from the DBE.

SIGNED: PAD BEETS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2020-11-04