



Ministry of Education and Training

Media Release

Impact of the Covid-19 on the Tongan School Systems

Date: 18 March 2020

Due to the world-wide spread of the Covid-19 virus and the likelihood of Tongan people getting infected due to mass gathering, the Ministry of Education and Training together with the non-Government Education Systems of Tonga, in their meeting on the 18th March 2020, agreed to put in place a number of measures to combat the spread of the virus and minimize the disruption on our students learning.

- 1) The 2020 Secondary Schools' Intercollege Sports which was planned to be held April 21-24th in Term 2 will be postponed till after the National Examinations in November.
- 2) Starting next week (23rd March), all Government schools will add an extra hour to their timetable per day, finishing at 4:30pm instead of 3:30pm. The additional 5 hours per week is to ensure that the curriculum is adequately covered and taught, well ahead of a possible school closure. Parents are hereby notified of the intent of this extension of time, and we ask for your understanding of the wish of the Ministry to minimise disruption to students' learning in a possible closedown.
- 3) For a possible school closure, home-schooling will become the norm. School work will be delivered to your homes through various channels of communications – internet, radio, TV, soft and/or hard-copies of relevant school resources. Your teachers will also be on standby, via email/phone/messages, to answer your queries about your learning. It is the Ministry's wish that regardless of a possible school closure, your learning will continue through new modes of lessons delivery.

The Ministry look forward to working collaboratively with parents and students to address the challenges posed by the Coronavirus, ensure the safety of our children, and to help minimize the disruption of their education.

For further information, please contact:

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