

## Media Release

**Date: 26 January 2021**

### **Schools, colleges and early years providers closed to ALL students for rest of this week**

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Schools, colleges and early years providers (pre-schools, nurseries and child-minders) will remain closed to ALL students for the rest of this week.

The decision to close education sites to all students – including vulnerable students and children of essential workers – for the rest of this week will help support our principle objective to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19.

Cases have continued to be identified in education settings but **parents are again asked to NOT contact Public Health.**

The scheduling team will contact relevant student groups and staff at schools where cases have been confirmed to book them in for tests, **if these are required. Please do not contact Public Health to instigate testing yourselves.** However, if you or your children develop symptoms please contact the clinical helpline 756938/756969 or your GP. For more information about symptoms please visit <https://covid19.gov.gg/guidance/symptoms>.

While it is very difficult to be able to state with any kind of certainty what next week will bring, we are examining all options to try and get sites open as quickly as possible, and in the safest way possible, to support vulnerable students and the children of essential workers. A further update will be provided later this week and we thank all education staff for adapting to rapidly-changing circumstances.

All sites where cases have been confirmed are being deep cleaned.

Schools and the College will continue rolling the soft start to Distance Learning. Schools will be in touch with parents to provide relevant materials although it is important to note that this Distance Learning will not seek to replicate a normal school day.

Dr Nicola Brink, Director of Public Health, said:

‘We have continued to identify cases in education settings and it remains cause for concern. Keeping education sites closed to all students is an important measure as we remain focused on our principle objective of trying to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19. We are acutely aware of the impact for vulnerable students currently

unable to be in school and for those parents who are essential staff and we as a community need to be in work. We are examining all options to get sites open as quickly as possible, and in the safest way possible, to support vulnerable students and the children of essential workers.'

**Ends**