



Minister of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport

s. Rodolphe E. Samuel

Government Administration Building
Souliga Road #1
Pond Island, Great Bay
St. Maarten

Cell: +1 (721) 5809232

E: Rodolphe.Samuel@sintmaartengov.org

To: All Parents/Guardians of Students

DIV Nr.: 10384

Philipsburg, 31st July 2020

Subject: Commencement of 2020-2021 Academic Year – COVID-19

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we are nearing the end of the Summer Vacation and are preparing to commence the 2020-2021 Academic Year on August 10, 2020, kindly take note of the following:

The country of Sint Maarten is currently experiencing a very rapid increase in COVID-19 infections indicating a second wave of COVID-19 cases.

In light of the current developments and in line with the various approaches described in Sint Maarten's Education Continuity Plan – Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, a decision has been made for **all schools to start with on-line learning until further notice**. This decision is based on current evidence, provided by Sint Maarten's Health experts, of clusters of cases and community transmission.

This means that all students will continue to receive education via distance learning as they were after the closure of school on March 18, 2020. In the event your school is unable to begin on August 10, 2020, and will start at a later time, you will be informed by August 7, 2020.

The local situation regarding the spread of COVID-19 and the situation on the island will be reviewed within the next three weeks and an update will be provided to the school boards. Once the situation has been found to have improved significantly and community transmission has been once again brought under control, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport will inform when a return to onsite education at school can be expected.

It is essential that you continue to communicate the importance of education to your child/children and ensure that they are aware of the importance of safe social distancing and the hygiene practices that have been observed to limit exposure to the COVID-19 virus, and for you to practice the same.

I urge you to remain abreast of developments related to your child's education by maintaining regular contact with your child's school and thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our students safe, particularly during these unprecedented times.

Trusting to have informed you sufficiently.

Respectfully yours,

Drs. Rodolphe Samuel
Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport



