



March 15, 2020

CLOSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

To mitigate the impact of the spread of COVID-19, all educational institutions in Antigua & Barbuda will close early for the Easter Vacation from Monday, 16th March to Friday, 27th March, 2020. The Ministry of Education will continue to monitor the situation, and if the crisis persists, may have to extend beyond the Easter Vacation. Despite best efforts to arrest the spread of COVID-19, we still face uncertainty and the considerable unease brought about by this uncertainty. It is necessary to implement additional changes informed by the recommendations of leading health officials and consistent with education systems around the world.

School leadership, teachers, cleaners, security, and all other staff are to report to their respective institutions Monday and Tuesday, 16th and 17th March (and, if needed, and as determined by school leadership, Wednesday, 18th March) to implement MoEST COVID-19 Protocols (published March 13, 2020) in order to work remotely and to prepare schools for cleaning and environmental adjustments for eventual return. The Board of Education, with the support of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment and the Ministry of Works, will exhaust all options to ensure that all schools are equipped with additional handwashing stations, soap, hand sanitizers, etc. for the reopening.

Out of Classroom Platforms and Support

In addition to other platforms already in use in schools, the following are suggested educational platforms and are eligible for supplemental funding from the Ministry of Education for schoolwide subscriptions:

1. Google Classroom - <https://classroom.google.com/u/0/h>
2. IXL Personalized Learning - www.ixl.com
3. Moodle - <https://moodle.org>
4. Schoology - <https://www.schoology.com>
5. Edmodo - <https://go.edmodo.com/teachers/>
6. Sakai - <https://www.sakailms.org>
7. Showbie - <https://www.showbie.com>
8. Castle Learning - <https://www.castlelearning.com>
9. iTunes U - <https://www.apple.com/education/>
10. Canvas - <https://www.instructure.com/canvas/?newhome=canvas>
11. Pearson - <https://www.pearsonschool.com>

PARENTS

As we transition through this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic, we strongly advise that you rigorously manage the whereabouts of your children during this period and avoid gatherings of more than 4-5 persons. *The National School Meals will begin assessment to identify the most vulnerable students to continue to receive meals during this time.* The situation is evolving. Stay informed:

National Association of School Psychologist - <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources>

- Responding to COVID-19 - <https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov>
- Preparing for COVID-19 School Closures - <https://hbr.org/2020/03/how-working-parents-can-prepare-for-coronavirus-closures>

The Ministry of Education, Science & Technology wish all citizens good health. We encourage everyone to implement protective measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all, particularly the most vulnerable.

For more info on COVID-19: <https://www.who.int> - COVID-19 Hotline: (268) 484-2712