

# SMART RESTART

## Health, Safety & Environment Guidelines

Dear NMS families

Trust you are all doing well and staying safe this holiday season. We have spent the summer planning and preparing for a safe return of our students in a blended environment. Last week, we received approval from KHDA for our plan.

*“Thank you for submitting your School Re-Opening Readiness Plan. We’ve reviewed your plan, and we’re happy to let you know that it meets all the requirements.”*

Regulations & Permits Commission  
Knowledge & Human Development Authority

As discussed with you early July and further to that, the survey that I had sent out, we are all gearing up to reopen school post the summer break, with our Blended Learning model. However, we do understand that you may yet have queries about the reopening plans, and this circular aims to throw some light on our re-opening.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) pertaining to our Health & Safety protocols and safety measures to ensure maximum safety of our learning community:

### 1) **When will my child attend school?**

The first day of school will be August 30<sup>th</sup> either on campus or in remote learning depending on the parent’s preference, as opted in the school survey.

### 2) **What will it look like when my child is not in the classroom?**

The group not in school will access learning online through the use of numerous platforms used during remote learning. We have learned so much during our experience from April to June, and have taken that knowledge to further refine and enhance the remote provision. This tool will allow students to experience the classroom environment, as well as work independently as directed by the learning plan.

### 3) What will be the school timings?

The timings are set as below.

However, kindly note that we will provide all 5 days of distance learning, in addition to the below mentioned blended learning format.

Some parents have requested for all 5 days of onsite learning, which we will consider. However, you will be required to fill this in the survey, so we can plan accordingly. Moreover, once you choose an option, you are required to stick to it until the school provides further information regarding any changes in the mode of operations.

Grade	School Days	School Timings
PKG to Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onsite: Sunday &amp; Thursday</li> <li>Remote: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30am to 1:30pm</li> <li>PACT- 1:30pm to 3:30pm (Remotely)</li> </ul>
Grade 6 to Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onsite: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday</li> <li>Remote: Sunday &amp; Thursday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30am to 1:30pm</li> <li>PACT- 1:30pm to 3:30pm (Remotely)</li> </ul>

### 4) What protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our learning community?

- The GEMS health and safety department has established a robust set of health, safety and operational procedures and protocols, in order to support the safe reopening of schools. Quality assurance checks shall be conducted to monitor the effectiveness.
- Desks will be set at a safe distance apart of 1.5 meters, and physical markings would be used in classrooms to ensure desks remain in the correct locations. Teachers shall be positioned at the front of the classroom area, at a distance of 1.5 meters from the front row desks.
- Safety markings will be set up throughout corridors, the markings will dictate safe distance of 2 meters. Students shall be monitored to ensure adherence. Our school has conducted a review of all potential frequent touch points, including, door handles, light switches, handrails, taps and washbasins, etc. Increased cleaning and sanitization shall be conducted across these areas throughout the duration of the day.
- A thorough cleaning of the school will be conducted each day by an approved vendor, using approved Municipality chemicals. A thorough deep clean and sanitization of the school will be conducted at the end of each week. Cleaning staff will wear the required PPE for all cleaning activities.



**5) Will students and staff wear masks?**

- Teachers and students above the age of 6 are required to wear face masks. Face mask can be removed during strenuous physical activity. Surgical or procedural masks provide protection against respiratory droplet spread. It is suggested that students bring two disposable masks to school per day or one re-usable option.

**6) Should children bring devices to school?**

Students from Grades 1 and above should carry their device to school on days of onsite learning.

**7) How will you ensure that pick-up points for OT students are not crowded?**

Since only 33% of students are allowed to come to school each day, own transport area also will have fewer numbers. Parents are requested to maintain proper social distancing outside the school gates as well.

**8) Do we need to pay the bus fees in case the student opt for online learning?**

No, if you are opting for the complete remote learning option (online classes 5 days a week), then you don't have to pay the transport fees. Bus routes will be revised based on the demand of parents wishing to continue to use bus transportation and to accommodate the new staggered start times.

**9) Will there be any extracurricular activities?**

Yes, all extra-curricular activities will continue as usual in the normal school timings. PACT will be conducted via remote learning systems.

**10) How is thermal scanning done in school? What will the school do if temperature of the child is abnormal?**

Our school will have two thermal scanners placed at two entrances. If it detects a temperature equal to or higher than 37.5 degrees then, the child will be taken to a waiting room and his/her temperature will be checked again after 10 minutes. If the child is normal then he/ she will be sent to class. If not, then the parent will be informed and the child will be taken to the isolation room, where our medical team will take over.

**11) What training will the staff have before school opens?**

All staff will undergo specific Covid-19 training prior to the start of the new academic year. They have already completed online courses including that for contact tracing and COVID preventive measures. In addition, teachers will regularly communicate and provide information to students on the associated risks, safe practices and controls. All students will be briefed on this plan prior to the start of the academic year.



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## 12) What will be the communication channels for families?

At NMS, we believe in transparent and effective communication. Important information will be shared regularly with parents via email from the homeroom teacher, Head of Section, Parent Relations Executive, and from the Principal's desk. All other updates will be shared via the Weekend Communique.

We understand that you may have concerns about this reopening, but I want to reiterate that we are committed to our community's safety and also to providing our learners with an outstanding education. With these principles at the heart of our plan, we will be offering 100% education to all year groups in a Blended Learning scenario (or otherwise, as opted by you in the survey).

If you have any questions relating to this letter, then please contact our Parent Relations Executive on [shilpa.n\\_nms@gemsedu.com](mailto:shilpa.n_nms@gemsedu.com).

I hope you are continuing to enjoy your holidays, staying safe and enjoying time together. I look forward to seeing you on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, and will be in touch very soon. Thank you for being a part of the NMS learning community and for your support during these challenging times.

We are #InThisTogether!

Kind regards

Fatima Martin  
Principal



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