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**TO: HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
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NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (NAISA).
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS
TEACHER UNIONS
UMALUSI
MARKING CENTRE MANAGERS**

CIRCULAR E34 OF 2020

PROTOCOL FOR THE MARKING OF THE 2020 COMBINED NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) AND SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) EXAMINATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

1. The President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, on 28 December 2020, announced the move to adjusted Risk Alert Level 3. This has implications for the National Senior Certificate and Senior Certificate examinations, with specific reference to the marking of the examination scripts.
2. The amended Regulations promulgated in terms of Disaster Management Act, 2002, *Amendment of Regulations issued in terms of section 27(2), Regulations 36(5) published in the Government Gazette Number 44044 on 29 December 2020*, states: "Gatherings at a workplace for work purposes are allowed, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures".
3. Subject to these Regulations and the Amendment of Directions issued in terms of *Regulation 4(3) of the Regulations made under the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) regarding the marking of examination scripts of the 2020 National Senior Certificate and Senior Certificate Examinations and measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the National Department of Basic Education, all Provincial Departments of Education, all Education District Offices and all Schools in the Republic of South Africa*, guidelines are provided to officials, educators and administration staff who are marking examination scripts and performing other functions related to the finalisation of the results of the 2020 National Senior Certificate and Senior Certificate examinations, and the release thereof.

4. The Department of Basic Education has developed a ***Protocol for the Marking of the 2020 Combined National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Senior Certificate (SC) examinations in compliance with the Covid-19 requirements (Annexure A)***. This protocol aims to articulate in detail the processes and procedures to be followed at each marking centre and thus standardises the implementation of the mitigation measures across every marking centre to ensure that the marking environment is a safe environment.
5. Whilst it is acknowledged that provincial contexts and resourcing varies, adherence to the compulsory non-pharmaceutical COVID-19 safety measures which includes the wearing of a cloth mask, regular hand sanitizing and washing of hands, the observance of social distancing in all work spaces and in the accommodation facilities is not negotiable.
6. This marking protocol must therefore be read in conjunction with the most recent revised *Standard Operating Procedure for the Containment and Management of COVID-19 for Schools and School Communities*, issued by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the *Regulations on the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examinations*.
7. This protocol must be mediated with all Marking Centre Compliance Officers, Marking Centre Managers, all Marking Personnel and Examination Monitors so that there is a consistent application, collective vigilance and strict adherence and monitoring of the COVID-19 safety measures at all marking centres.
8. Your cooperation and support in ensuring that the marking of the Combined 2020 NSC and SC examinations takes place in a safe, compliant and conducive marking environment, is highly appreciated.
9. For further enquiries please contact Dr R R Poliah at Tel: (012) 357 390 or email: Poliah.r@dbe.gov.za.



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION
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