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To: Principals, Educators and school-based staff at public schools

(For information: Governing bodies)
(For information: Independent schools)

Dear Colleagues

END OF THE SECOND TERM AND MASKS

Last night, the National Minister of Health, Dr Phaahla, repealed Regulation 16A of the *Regulations Relating to the Surveillance and the Control of Notifiable Medical Conditions: Amendment, 2022*, in *Government Gazette* No. 46590 of 22 June 2022. It is therefore no longer mandatory to wear face masks in indoor public places. This also applies to public schools. Learners, educators and school-based public servants are therefore not required to wear face masks at schools. However, should a learner, educator or staff member wish to continue to wear a face mask for health reasons, they may continue to do so.

I would sincerely like to wish all of you a well-deserved winter break.

This has been a very productive term. The energy and attention has been on the recovery process with a focus on learning. I have seen a concerted effort by schools to ensure that all contact time was fully utilised and that additional opportunities for learning were seized. Thank you for driving this within your schools and classrooms.

We have noted that many schools have been struggling with learner behavioural issues. The past two years certainly affected routines and the return to 100% attendance has caused some negative social behaviours to come to the fore. I will be addressing this with parents in the new term. There will also be some new developments with regard to psychosocial support and positive behavioural interventions. I do, however, acknowledge the effect the full return has had on our educators and school staff and that, understandably, you are all ready to unwind and relax.

For those educators participating in winter holiday programmes or professional development and training courses – Thank You! Your efforts to continue to engage with your learners and your own professional development are encouraging. I do hope that you too get a chance to take a

breather. Remember that self-care is a necessary practice to make sure we are strong enough to help others.

As we close schools for the break, kindly remember to check school security systems and ensure that they are in working order before you leave and that the necessary arrangements have been made for access control during the school holidays.

Also remind your school and neighbourhood communities, that your school is also their school and that they must please contact the South African Police Service should they suspect any suspicious activity at the school during the holiday. Kindly contact Safe Schools should you be alerted to any break-ins or illegal activity on your school premises.

I look forward to the third term with great anticipation.

For now, stay safe and get some rest!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Walters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

BRENT WALTERS
HEAD: EDUCATION
DATE: 23 JUNE 2022