



COVID-19 Systemic Risk and Education Sector Resilience in the Caribbean Region

SVG Ministry of Education, National Reconciliation and Information Response to COVID-19

Thursday, 28th May 2020

Safe School Working Group of the Education Sector Sub-Committee of the CDM Coordination and Harmonization Council



Comprehensive School Safety in SVG

- Key achievements include;
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Curriculum – Lower Secondary
- School Safety Policy
- Model Safe School Plan
- Assessment tool training
- Emergency supplies for schools

Initial Response to COVID-19



- Meetings with the COVID-19 Task Force.
- MOE Action Plan guided by UNICEF Key Action and MOH shared with schools.
- SVG first COVID-19 case – 11th March 2020.
- MOE meeting with staff on 13th March 2020.
- Meeting with Principals and Education officers and the Ministry of Health on 16th March 2020.
- One Week Early closure of schools for Easter – 20th March

Continuity of Teaching/Learning



- Curriculum Development Unit Website
- Wide range of platforms used by schools to engage students (Zoom, Edmodo, You Tube, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Notesmaster among others).
- Through consultation adoption of a common online platform that best served the interest of the Education System - Microsoft Teams

Continuity of Teaching/Learning



- Training in online teaching and use of platforms - Training of trainers', administrators, teachers , support team.
- ELearning help desk to address queries, to date, most of the schools have advanced to this platform.
- Electronic media: Live Classes on the television station VC3, channel 114 & the VC3 Facebook, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. during the week.

Continuity of Teaching/Learning

- Where online learning is not possible, due to lack of devices, internet, electricity or other issues the “**School In A Bag**” initiative is implemented where materials are printed, packed and made available to the students.
- Outreach to pockets of students who were still not engaged by principals, teachers and other education officers.

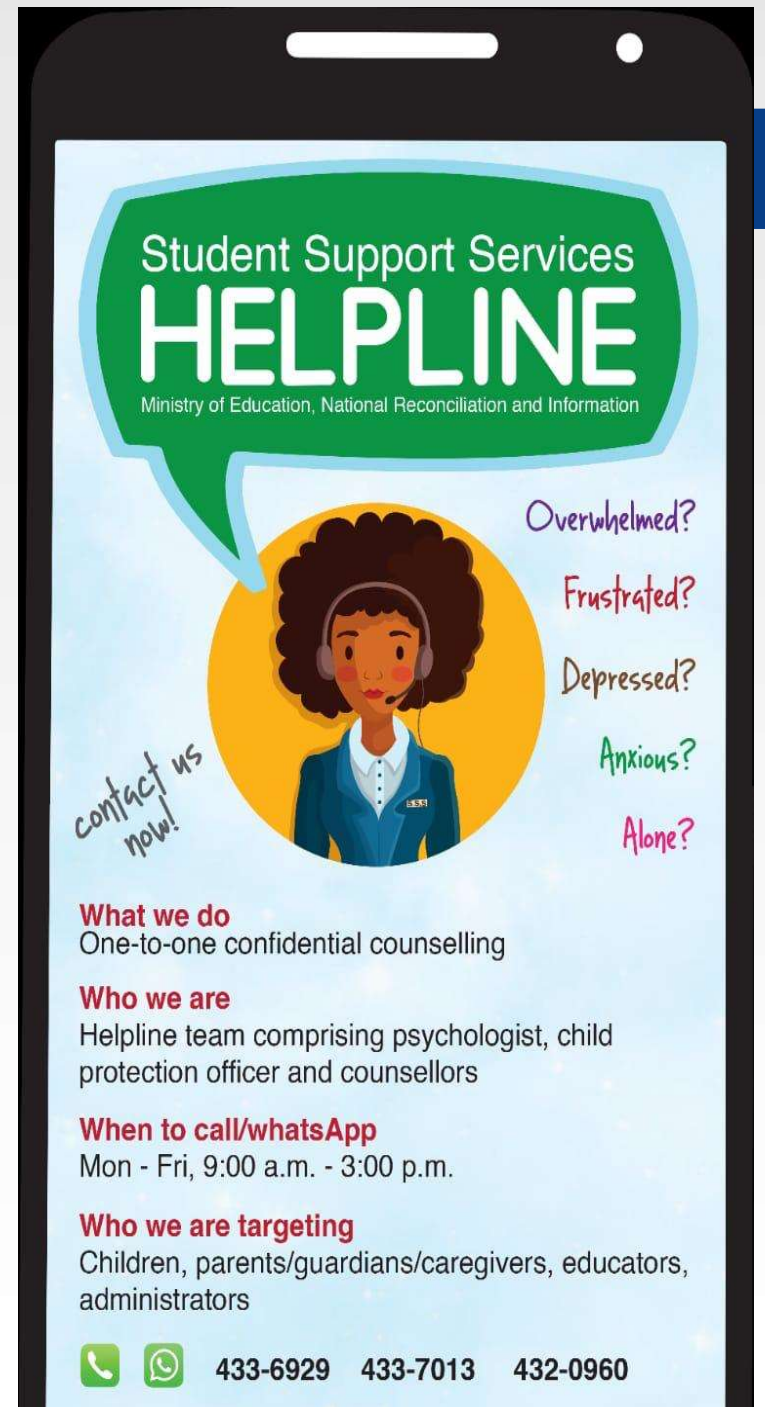
Psychosocial Support



- **Strand 1: School Level Response** - counsellors working with members of their individual student body and staff.
- **Strand 2: Curriculum Development Unit** - Support and guidance to counsellors, televised guidance lessons and recorded support sessions for students, teachers and parents.
- **Strand 3: Student Support Services** – will involve the psychologist, counsellors at the Student Support Services , counsellors from the Schools Guidance Counsellors Association., Child Protection Officers within the Ministry of National Mobilisation and the SVG Social Workers Association.

Psychosocial Support

- **Strand 3: Student Support Services**
- **WhatsApp Parenting Groups** - parents in parenting programmes.
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- **Online Parenting Sessions** - online platforms for one hour parenting sessions.
- **Helpline** - One to one counselling
Make appointments 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
@ 4336929, 4337013 and 4320960.



Student Support Services
HELPLINE
Ministry of Education, National Reconciliation and Information

Overwhelmed?
Frustrated?
Depressed?
Anxious?
Alone?



contact us now!

What we do
One-to-one confidential counselling

Who we are
Helpline team comprising psychologist, child protection officer and counsellors

When to call/whatsApp
Mon - Fri, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Who we are targeting
Children, parents/guardians/caregivers, educators, administrators

  433-6929 433-7013 432-0960

Reopening of Schools: 25 May 2020



- Specific guidelines from the COVID-19 Task Force
- Meetings with a wide range of stakeholders (Principals, Teacher Unions, Heads of Primary and Secondary Principals Association)
- Meeting with the Ministry of Health
- Detailed assessment of School Facilities – Health, Education Officers, Ministry of Transport and Works (BRAGSA), Physical Planning and NEMO.

Interventions for Reopening of Schools

- Cleaning and sanitisation of schools.
- Meeting with cleaners and provision of cleaning guidelines
- Installation of additional hand wash stations and drinking fountains at some schools



Source: S. Abraham, KPS

Extended Hand wash station –
Kingstown Prep School

Campden Park Technical Institute

Source: SEO E. Johnson



Source: S. Abraham, KPS

Hand wash station at the Entrance of
the Kingstown Prep. School

Interventions for Reopening of Schools



- Physical distancing in the classroom or space large enough to accommodate safe distancing.
- Encourage the wearing of face masks.

Physical Distancing & Masks



Rose Hall Government: Grade 6

Source: N. Allen – Grade 6 Teacher

Kingstown Technical Institute

Source: SEO E. Johnson



Interventions for Reopening of Schools



- Staggering of the start and end of the school day as well as break and lunch periods. Timetable adjusted to accommodate changes.
- Utilisation of school buses and designated transport for staff and students.
- Encourage the wearing of face masks.



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Posters at the Kingstown Prep. School
Source: S. Abraham, KPS

Interventions for Reopening of Schools



- The feeding programme at the primary schools & food arrangements in post primary schools.
- Secondary students encouraged to attend only for a timetabled subjects.
- Continuous sensitisation of health and safety practices for COVID-19
- Sick bay or identified rooms will be used as isolation areas, if the need arises.

Some Lessons Learnt



- Importance of **blended** learning: the need to incorporate online, electronic and face to face teaching/learning more effectively in Education.
- Importance of having online teaching/learning protocols, reliable internet and devices to support blended learning.

Some Lessons Learnt



- **Comprehensive School Safety** to be reemphasized: there must be buy-in at all levels including investment of human and financial resources.
- Ensure that all educational institutions develop, update, disseminate and test disaster management/schools safety plans.

Some Lessons Learnt



- Specific guidelines for continuing teaching/learning especially in times of crisis.
- Detailed assessments, storage and management of data is critical to operations in normal and times of crisis and necessary to inform quick decision making in time of emergencies.
- Importance of managing information flow and conduct regular meetings with key stakeholders in times of crisis.

Thank You

