

F. No. 11-16/2020-Sch.4
Government of India
Ministry of Education
(Department of School Education & Literacy)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 5th October, 2020

To,

The Additional/Special Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary
Education of all the States and Union Territories

Subject: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) / Guidelines for reopening of schools after
COVID-19 lockdown.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 30-09-2020, (copy attached at **Annexure A**) regarding guidelines for reopening, in a phased manner from 15th October, 2020, the schools which were closed following orders for lockdown in view of the COVID-19 situation.

With reference to para 1 of the above-mentioned guidelines, this Department has prepared detailed Guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for reopening of schools in consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, after taking into consideration the suggestions/comments received from States and Union Territories in pursuance of the meeting held on the subject under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (SE&L) through Video Conference on 08.06.2020. The guidelines are advisory in nature and States &UTs may use these in the manner deemed fit to prepare their own guidelines/SOPs, subject to the conditions laid down in the MHA order cited above.

The guidelines/SOPs are divided into two parts:

a)Part I refers to the health and safety aspects for reopening schools. These are based on the prevailing instructions of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with regard to health and safety protocols, and may be implemented by adopting/adapting in accordance with the local situation in all States/UTs.

b)Part II refers to learning with physical/social distancing and the aspects related to the delivery of education, such as curriculum transactions, instructional load, timetables, assessment, emotional and mental health and capacity building of stakeholders, etc.

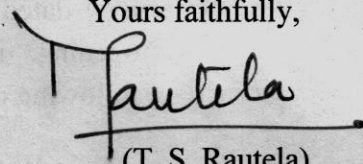
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Based on these guidelines/SOPs, State / UT Governments may develop their own Standard Operating Procedures for reopening schools and for training different stakeholders. A copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) / Guidelines for reopening of schools after COVID-19 lockdown is enclosed at **Annexure B** for taking appropriate action by all concerned.

It is reiterated that the decision for reopening schools in States/UTs is a matter within the purview and authority of the State/UT and therefore, on the lines of the MHA order the date to reopen the schools in the State/UT is to be decided by the respective State/UT. It is requested that as and when States/UTs decide to reopen schools, a copy of the order and SOP may be emailed to this Ministry as well.

Encl. As above

Yours faithfully,



(T. S. Rautela)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. 011-23383193

Copy, with a copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)/ Guidelines for reopening of schools after COVID-19 lockdown for information and appropriate action, to:

1. Director, NCERT
2. Chairman, CBSE
3. Chairman, NIOS
4. Commissioner, KVS
5. Commissioner, NVS
6. Director, CTSA
7. Joint Secretary (SS-I)/Joint Secretary (SS-II)/Joint Secretary (MDM)/Joint Secretary (Coordination)
8. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi
9. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
10. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
11. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, South Block, New Delhi.
12. Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
13. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Copy, with a copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)/ Guidelines for reopening of schools after COVID-19 lockdown for information, to:

1. PS to SM/PS to MOS(SM)
2. PPS to Secretary (SE&L)