



• Prof Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa, Director-General, GES

GES trains school heads, others in COVID-19

• As JHS finalists resume academic work today

By Severious Kale-Dery

AHEAD of the reopening of schools for junior high school (JHS) Form Three students today, the Ghana Education Service (GES) has started training heads of basic and senior high schools (SHSs) and key officials in its regional and district offices in the dos and don'ts on coronavirus (COVID-19).

The training is to enable managers of the schools to be abreast of issues about the pandemic and be able to respond appropriately in the event of any outbreak in their respective schools.

The Director-General of the GES Professor Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa, who briefed the *Daily Graphic*, explained that the Schools Health Education Programme (SHEP) of the GES and the Ghana Health Service (GHS) were leading the education and training.

Reopening

All JHS Form Three students are to report to school today. Already, final-year students in

tertiary institutions reported to school on Monday June 15, 2020, while the SHS Three and Form Two Gold Track students resumed academic work on Monday, June 22, 2020.

These followed an announcement of new guidelines by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in his 12th address to the nation, on measures being taken to fight the spread of the virus as the nation relaxes restrictions due to the pandemic.

The reopening of the school is to enable the final-year students to write their exit examinations.

All set

Prof. Opoku-Amankwa indicated that the distribution of the PPE for all JHSs was underway.

In all, 2,197,853 nose masks, 90,020 packs of tissue paper, 90,020 litres of liquid soap, 732,451 litres of alcohol-based hand sanitisers, 45,010 Veronica buckets and 39,944 pieces of thermometer guns have been dispatched to cater for the final-year students nationwide.

It is expected that 531,724 students, 101,215 staff and 31,647 invigilators will benefit from the PPE.

The coordination of the delivery of the PPE is being done under the auspices of the President's Team on Reopening, headed by the Senior Minister, Mr Yaw Osafo-Maafa.

Additionally, Prof. Opoku-Amankwa said disinfection of all basic schools, both public and private, ended over the weekend, adding that management was generally satisfied with all the processes put in place to

ensure a smooth reopening of the schools.

Support

Prof. Opoku-Amankwa hinted that teams involving the Ministry of Education (MoE), the GES Council members, the GES management and headquarters staff, would join the regional and district teams to monitor the distribution of the items.

He said the management of the GES was grateful to the school authorities and the teachers "for the good work so far."

"Management of GES also appreciates the cooperation of students and support of parents, old students and the general public," Prof. Opoku-Amankwa said, giving the assurance that the management of GES would continue to monitor the process to ensure its success.

Schools prepare

Meanwhile, Rejoice Lavinia Eklu & Maame Yaa S. Nyame-Baah report that during a visit by the *Daily Graphic* to some schools in Adabraka last Thursday, June 25, 2020, it was observed that some heads of private schools and other management staff were preparing for reopening.

At the Liberty Avenue Cluster of Schools, the Caretaker, Mr Kojo Nana Achampong Saahene, said the school had already been fumigated and was ready to receive the students and the teachers.

The Headmistress of the Additum Preparatory School, Ms Deborah Baddoo, also said the school had met with parents to inform and educate them on the various measures being taken to welcome the students.

Highlights

■ In March this year, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo banned all social gatherings and closed schools following the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country.

■ However, on May 31, 2020, President Akufo-Addo outlined guidelines for the gradual reopening of schools from the tertiary to JHS level.