

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Jamaica to Close Public Schools for 14 Days in Effort to Contain Coronavirus

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Youth Environmental Advocacy Programme Ambassador for 2017/18 and student of Dint Hill Technical High School, Nicole Pryce (left); and student, Dwayne Thompson, view seedlings on the school's farm on February 20. By. GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness has advised that after consultation with the Ministry of Education, all public schools will be closed as of Friday, March 13 for 14 days as part of the country's fight to contain the coronavirus.

Holness who was speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday said the decision will be reviewed after 10 days.

“I believe we have given notice. Tomorrow would have been a low turnout day anyway as was today.”

“Parents will now have Saturday and Sunday to make further preparations for their children and that would give us time to complete our preparations to ensure that those schools that do not have Internet connectivity that they could receive materials to distribute to students so they can continue their education at home,” he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of Education Dr Grace McLean indicated that the Primary Exit Profile (PEP) examinations have been postponed.

Performance Task assessments for Language Arts were scheduled for Thursday, March 19 and Mathematics for Friday, March 20.

McLean said if new dates are not possible, then the results of the grade-five and grade-six assessments will be used.