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**1226. Mrs L F Tito (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

What preparations has she made to protect both (a) teachers and (b) learners in schools against the third wave of the coronavirus?

**Response**

(a) and (b). The Minister and Department of Health have advised the country that the implementation of the Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) is the most effective way of preventing the spread of COVID-19. To that end, the Department of Basic Education has developed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Management and Containment of COVID-19, which are used in the basic education sector.  Learners, teachers and non-teaching staff are provided orientation on the SOP.  Schools ensure that the SOP is adhered to, and that the COVID-19 cleaning and sanitising resources are available.  The wearing of face masks is mandatory in schools.  Screening is conducted for learners, staff and visitors.  All these measures continue to be emphasised so that schools remain a much safer environment for all.