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**1556.   Dr S S Thembekwayo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Whether her department has instructed schools not to close, despite having confirmed Covid-19 cases; if not, why was a certain school (name furnished) not closed, despite having two confirmed Covid-19 cases in July 2020 (details furnished)?

**Response**

No.  The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which outline protocols that should be followed in the event that positive cases of COVID19 are identified among staff or learners in schools. Schools were encouraged to implement the SOPs appropriately.