



# FIJI TEACHERS UNION

(THE CHILD OUR HOPE)

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Affiliated to EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL, FTUC, Fiji Teachers Confederation & COPE

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Your Ref:

### **BACK TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS**

Now that year 8 to year 13 students have returned to schools from this week it is important to plan ahead given the surge in the covid infection rates.

If maintaining social distancing was the reason for keeping unvaccinated children in year seven and below home for a long while, we are again confronted with the same issue. That is to keep the students and teachers safe and avoid further infections.

We know that most urban schools have large class sizes. Maintaining social distancing is going to be difficult.

Therefore, I have written to the PS Education suggesting a way out of this. She has responded and will have a look at our suggestion.

We suggested that each class be split in two groups say A and B. Let group A in each class from early childhood class to year seven return to school on first THREE DAYS of week and group B to go on the other two days. The following week group B return to school from Monday to Wednesday and group A on Thursday and Friday. The group A and B alternate till necessary.

In that way, we will have half of each class in the classroom which will allow spacing out for keeping children apart and at the same time give children the opportunity to have contact hours with teachers. It will be a win-win situation enabling schools to observe COVID-19 protocols and at the same time allow children to get face to face teaching and learning environment.

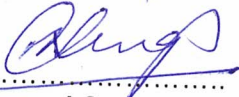
The Union has also come to learn of increase in cases amongst students as well as teachers.

Teachers are very much concerned about the risk of their young unvaccinated children at home contracting the virus from them.

The authorities must treat the matter with the urgency it deserves.

We are consulting with former education experts, former PS etc. to make these suggestions. Once again, I call upon the Minister and PS to assemble a group of experts and former education officials and those who have had years of experience in dealing with such challenges.

The need to consult and engage a wider stakeholder group cannot be overemphasised.

  
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**General Secretary**  
**Fiji Teachers Union**

05 January 2022

All correspondence to the General Secretary Fiji Teachers Union, Please.

Branches: Suva, Nasinu, Rewa, Tailevu, Ra, Tavua, Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, Sigatoka, Navua, Labasa, Bua, Taveuni, Savusavu, Levuka.