

# EDUCATION *Updates*

4 April 2020

## SOUTH EAST ASIA

### **Indonesia, Mar 24 : National Exams Cancelled Amid Covid-19 Pandemic [Jakarta Global].**

The Indonesian government has decided to cancel the 2020 national exams at all levels – elementary, junior high and senior high school – to help curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Apr 3 : Students to receive certs despite exam cancellations [Star].** Major examination bodies Cambridge International and International Baccalaureate will still be awarding certificates to candidates despite cancelling exams in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Apr 3 : TIDREC suggests going beyond diagnosis to study Covid-19 genetics [NST].** In addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, universities can actually contribute beyond diagnostic testing, said Universiti Malaya's Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre (TIDREC) director Professor Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Apr 2 : MCO: E-learning resources for students and academics to explore [NST].** The rapidly growing Covid-19 outbreak has led to the closure of academic institutions and the disruption of on-campus classroom activities. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Apr 1 : A Level and IGCSE students speak out about exam cancellations [NST].** Secondary and higher learning institutions in Malaysia offering A Level and IGCSE have yet to come to a decision on the action to be taken following the cancellation of the May and June examinations due to the Covid-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Mar 31 : Learning mustn't stop with Covid-19 [Star].** The Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0) brings technology into our everyday lives, making education accessible anytime, anywhere. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Apr 3 : COVID-19: Singapore makes 'decisive move' to close most workplaces and impose full home-based learning for schools, says PM Lee [CNA].** Amid concerns over escalating COVID-19 infections in Singapore, the time has come for the country to make a "decisive move", said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in an address to the nation on Friday (Apr 3). [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Apr 3: 'Right time' to close schools now, says Education Minister Ong Ye Kung [CNA].** School will be suspended for about a month from next Wednesday (Apr 8) as Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced on Friday stricter measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Apr 3 : Local universities cancel in-person examinations, move assessments online [CNA].** Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will be cancelling all undergraduate on-campus exams, quizzes and tests scheduled between Apr 6 and May 8, following the COVID-19 developments in Singapore. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Apr 3 : Learning centres take steps to address parents' concerns over online classes [Straits Times].** Tuition and enrichment operators have moved classes online, following the authorities' decision to suspend all centre-based classes from last Friday. The move to put on hold such classes until the end of this month was made to reduce intermingling of students from different schools. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Apr 3 : Singapore schools to shift to full home-based learning from April 8 to May 4 amid Covid-19 pandemic [Straits Times].** Students in all schools and institutes of higher learning will shift to full home-based learning from next Wednesday (April 8), Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Friday. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Apr 1 : Coronavirus: Lessons at home for primary school pupils proceed smoothly, despite teething issues [Straits Times].** Primary school pupils were able to attend school virtually on Wednesday (April 1) – despite some teething issues – as the Education Ministry rolled out home-based learning to prepare families if the Covid-19 situation calls for more of it. [LINK](#)

## EUROPE

**Estonia, Mar 31 : Estonia's Ministry of Education not in a hurry Cancelling school exams [ERR].** The Ministry of Education and Research says it is not in a hurry to cancel this year's school exams, and awaits further developments in the current coronavirus emergency situation, which has seen all schools in the country remain closed. [LINK](#)

**Estonia, Mar 31 : Principals' Association: Students should be able to graduate without exams [EER].** The Estonian Principals' Association (Eesti koolijuhtide ühendus) has called upon the Ministry of Education and Research to quickly take a decision on the end of the school year and graduations. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Apr 3 : Teachers to grade students for cancelled exams [BBC].** Teachers in England will be asked to assess the grades they think pupils would have achieved in cancelled GCSE and A-level exams. [LINK](#)

## EUROPE (CONT.)

**United Kingdom, Apr 3 : Exam regulator unveils GCSE and A-level plans for coronavirus crisis [Guardian].** Pupils taking GCSEs and A-levels this summer will have their grades awarded by a combination of teacher assessment, class ranking and the past performance of their schools, the exam regulator for England has announced . [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Apr 3 : Forget freshers' week: universities prepare to teach new first years online [Guardian].** Sixth formers, whose A-level exams were cancelled because of coronavirus, may miss out on freshers' week too. Universities have confirmed they are making plans to start the next academic year online if social distancing continues. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Apr 1 : Coronavirus: Special needs parents in 'survival mode' [BBC].** A father has described the "huge impact" of losing respite care for his young daughter who has complex special needs. [LINK](#)

## ASIA PACIFIC

**Australia, Apr 4 : HSC group exams scrapped amid virus crisis [News AU].** NSW education authorities have cancelled mandatory group performances and work placements in a suite of changes made to protect students completing the HSC. [LINK](#)

**Australia, Mar 31 : Schools to remain open despite most students 'staying away' [News AU].** Parents are heeding the government's call for children to stay away from schools, with over 90 per cent of students learning from home according to NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell. [LINK](#)

**China, Mar 31 : China's education ministry makes arrangements for spring semester. [Xin Hua Net].** China's Ministry of Education issued a circular on education and teaching work for the spring semester after the opening of primary and secondary schools, as the coronavirus outbreak continues to subside in the country. [LINK](#)

**India, Apr 4 : Beat Covid-19 lockdown blues by learning new skills, says psychotherapist [India Today].** Psychotherapist Dr Jyoti Kapoor suggested that people should learn new skills and follow a set routine to keep away any mental health issues or from feeling blue during the Covid-19 lockdown. [LINK](#)

**India, Apr 3 : VKE sanitises school premises to fight COVID-19 infection [The Times of India].** Schools in Pune are fighting the coronavirus spread by sanitising the premises, classrooms, floors and washrooms during this shut down. [LINK](#)

**South Korea, Mar 31 : Back to school next week for South Korea - with online classes [Straits Times].** South Korean students are set to begin the new academic year with online classes from April 9, while schools remain physically closed in a bid to curb the spread of the coronavirus that has so far infected 9,786 people and killed 163 in the country . [LINK](#)

## AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

**UAE, Apr 2 : UAE education ministry bans private tutoring sessions [Arab News].** All private tutoring sessions for students have been banned except for remote learning classes, state news agency WAM reported on Thursday citing the Ministry of Education. [LINK](#)

**UAE, Mar 28 : Distance learning is an education imperative [Gulf News].** The Satisfactory is not a word that the UAE characterises itself by. It is a nation that is constantly seeking ways to renew itself by encouraging innovation across all sectors. [LINK](#)

**Turkey, Mar 12 : Turkey to air remote school lessons amid COVID-19 fears [AA].** Turkey will close its primary, secondary and high schools for two weeks, with remote education to begin in the second week as part of precautions against the novel coronavirus, the country's education minister said Thursday. [LINK](#)

## AMERICAS

**Chile, Apr 3 : How is Chile facing the COVID19 education emergency? UNESCO talks with Raul Figueroa, Minister of Education of Chile [UNESCO].** At a moment when more than 1.5 billion students are out of school because of the COVID-19 emergency, countries face an unprecedented scenario: schools closed, families facing uncertain futures, and children and adolescents coping with disrupted routines and educational processes. [LINK](#)

**USA, Apr 2 : Lockdowns, closures: How is each US state handling coronavirus? [AL-Jazeera].** As the United States continues to ramp up testing, it is seeing a rapid increase of coronavirus cases. As of Friday, there were nearly 250,000 cases and over 6,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. [LINK](#)

## EDUCATION ARTICLES

**Mar 26 : Coronavirus: Children could face more mental health problems amid lengthy school closures, experts warn [Independent].** Children and teenagers across the country have had to cope with schools suddenly closing their doors, the cancellation of exams and a prohibition of face-to-face interactions with friends. [LINK](#)

**Mar 28 : Experts share home-schooling tips for struggling parents [News AU].** As the world has been thrust into turmoil due to the coronavirus crisis, Educational Consultant Dr Prue Salter advises parents who have chosen to home-school their children to "be creative". [LINK](#)

**Mar 30 : Webinar: A new world for teachers, education's frontline workers [UNESCO].** From one day to the next, teachers around the world have found themselves managing virtual classrooms, communicating with their students over social media platforms and learning by doing as they provide education from a distance to over 1.5 billion students affected by school closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)