



GENERAL

"Every Child Can Learn... Every Child Must Learn"

Schools' Bulletin

**ATTENTION: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMEN AND PRINCIPALS
OF ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF FACE-TO-FACE SCHOOL - TROPICAL STORM MELISSA

Dear Colleagues,

The Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information (MoESYI) remains in constant communication with the Meteorological Service of Jamaica to receive updates on Tropical Storm Melissa. A tropical storm watch currently in effect for Jamaica as the system moves slowly across the Caribbean Sea, posing a potential threat to Jamaica within the next 24-48 hours. This situation may pose a risk to the safety of our key stakeholders as they commute to and from school.

Consequently, the MoESYI is ordering the closure of face-to-face classes on **Thursday, October 23, 2025**, to prioritise the safety of all students and staff as the impending weather system passes over the island. Kindly activate the Education in Emergency Plan to support the continuity of learning and ensure that the students are actively engaged. This will require schools to transition to the remote/online modality for teaching and learning activities for the day.

School administrators are asked to initiate all communication channels within their institution to ensure that parents/guardians can be informed promptly and can make necessary arrangements for their child/ward. If your school has been designated as a shelter, it is important to contact the shelter managers to coordinate access and manage shelter activities in case the need arises.

If the conditions worsen and schools are mobilised as shelters, provisions must be made to secure critical resources while providing access to bathroom facilities and other areas to safely house persons who may be displaced. (Please see the Shelter Listing attached)

Ms. Terry Ann Thomas Gayle
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

-----October 23, 2025-----

As MOESYI continues to monitor the current developments and prepare for inclement weather, let us be mindful of the necessary preparations that should be undertaken as precautionary measures at this time.

- Activate your school communication channels to share information and respond to queries as necessary, and stay tuned in to the media's timely updates.
- Administrators are expected to activate the education plan to support the continuity of learning in an emergency (printed kits, assign tasks using workbooks, handouts, textbooks, assigned readings, the use of televised lessons where this is possible, strategic distribution of learning materials where this is possible and online/offline digital learning where possible).
- Request evacuation procedures early from your Parish Disaster Committee or the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM).
- Activate the school's Emergency Shelter Plans and Procedures.

All stakeholders are encouraged to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety while we continue to monitor the system and provide further guidance.

Ms. Terry Ann Thomas Gayle
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

-----October 23, 2025-----

2 - 4 National Heroes Circle, Kingston 4, Jamaica, Tel: 922-1400, e-mail: terryann.thomas@moe.gov.jm