

VIRTUAL LEARNING AND TEACHING

BACK TO ONLINE CLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN MCO AREAS

Those in CMCO and RMCO areas will return to physical classes, says Radzi

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P RIMARY schools in states placed under the Movement Control Order (MCO) will conduct virtual learning and teaching, whereas states under the Conditional MCO (CMCO) and Recovery MCO (RMCO) will see pupils returning to physical classrooms.

Senior Education Minister Dr Radzi Jidin, who announced this yesterday, said the same applied to Form One and Form Four students.

Radzi said while classes would resume on Jan 20, it would largely depend on which movement order category the schools fell under.

"Primary and secondary stu-

dents who are not facing any major examinations will have online classes.

"However, Forms Two and Three students who live in RMCO and CMCO areas will begin face-to-face classes on March 8.

"Students who will sit major exams in the 2020 and 2021 session — Form Five and Form Six students — will be allowed to attend physical classes in states under MCO, CMCO and RMCO," he said.

The major examinations are Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia, Sijil Vokasional Malaysia, Sijil Tinggi Agama Malaysia, Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia, Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia, Diploma Vokasional Malaysia and other international level exams certified by the Education Ministry.

All matriculation college students in MCO, CMCO and RMCO areas would attend hybrid classes.

Second semester vocational college students in CMCO and RMCO areas could attend physical classes, while those in MCO states would have to continue with virtual learning.

"Those in semester four in vo-

educational colleges under MCO, RMCO and CMCO areas will attend physical classes," he said.

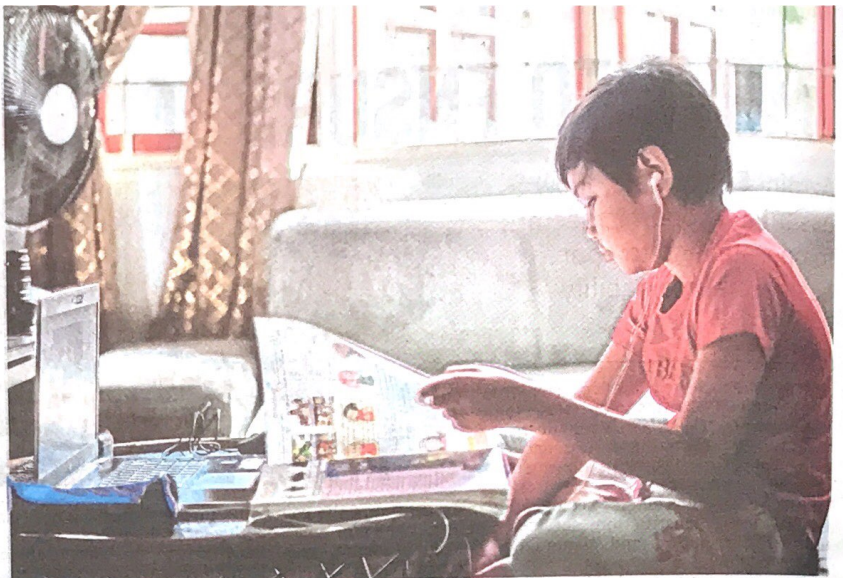
For teacher training institutes, Radzi said online learning would continue in MCO areas, while physical classes would resume in RMCO and CMCO areas.

He added that international and private schools were allowed to hold physical classes for students facing major examinations in all MCO, CMCO and RMCO areas.

"Those who are not facing major exams in MCO areas will attend virtual classes, while those in CMCO and RMCO areas are allowed to attend physical classes.

"Private kindergartens, however, will be allowed to hold physical classes in MCO, CMCO and RMCO areas."

Radzi said the decision was made during the Special National Security Council Meeting upon advice from the Health Ministry.



A student taking part in an online class at his home in Shah Alam last year. FILE PIC

He said schools would issue permission letters to teachers and students who would be required to travel interstate or inter-district to attend classes or return to their respective boarding schools.

"These permission letters will be issued by schools to their respective students to enable them to travel interstate or inter-district to attend classes," he said.

Radzi said this also applied to students and teachers travelling from outside of MCO areas to schools which are under either CMCO or RMCO phases.

For matriculation colleges and teacher training institutes, he said students would remain at their colleges and teaching and learning would be based on a hybrid system.

Virtual learning for teacher training institutes, he said, would

start on Jan 17, while attendance for lecturers were based on the heads of departments' discretion.

To mitigate the effects of virtual learning, Radzi said teachers of Year One pupils would be in constant communication with children's parents to brief them on their progress once the 2021 school term begins.

"We already have the list of pupils who will be entering school this year.

"As such, the teachers will be communicating with the parents to implement the learning process."

On the issue of textbooks, Radzi said schools would brief parents and students on the process of returning previous year's school books and collecting new textbooks.

"We are aware that textbooks are crucial for home learning."