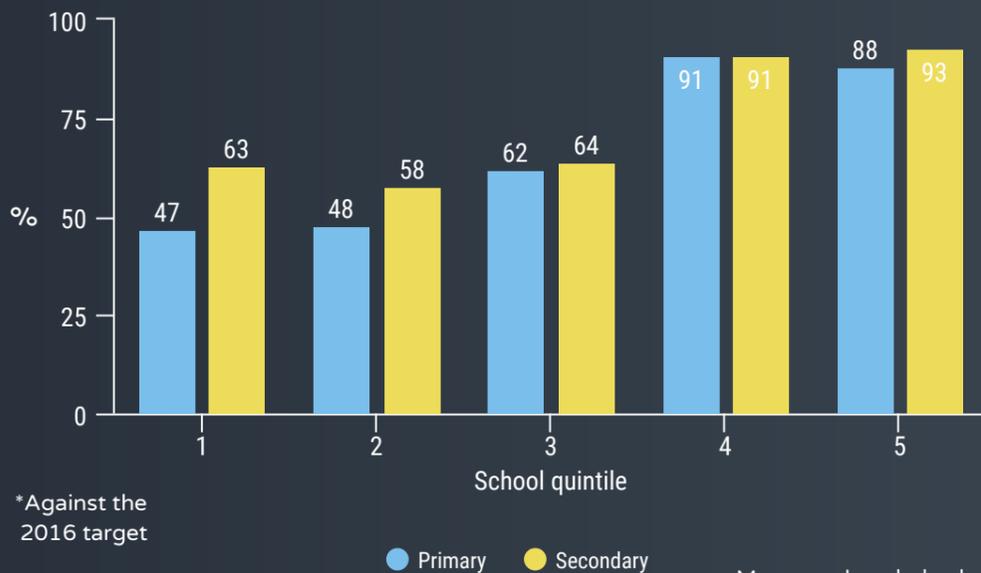


Are South African schools ready to re-open and co-exist with Covid-19?

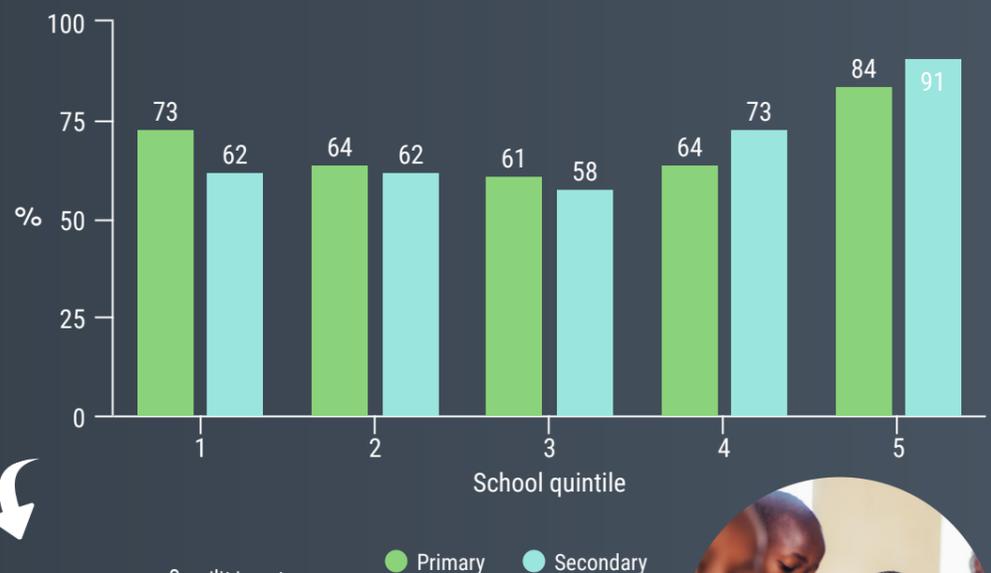
The staggered reopening of schools in South Africa is set to begin in June, starting with the return of Grade 7 and 12 learners. This infographic explores whether our schools are adequately equipped to handle the required precautions against Covid-19. Using data from the August 2019 National Education Infrastructure Management System Standard Report and the 2018 School Monitoring Survey on Public Ordinary Schools, we outline the difficulties some of our schools will face in meeting the challenge of teaching and learning safely during a pandemic. We acknowledge that the Department of Basic Education has implemented a number of interventions to ensure that schools are ready to reopen safely; and many schools have implemented strategies to address these challenges before reopening, such as increasing their water supply and introducing new hygiene measures. Here we report on the best available figures prior to the implementation of these interventions.

Basic Facilities for Teaching and Learning

Schools meeting the minimum level of basic facilities in terms of electricity, water and sanitation (2017)*



Schools with adequate classrooms (2017) (A classroom for every 40 learners)

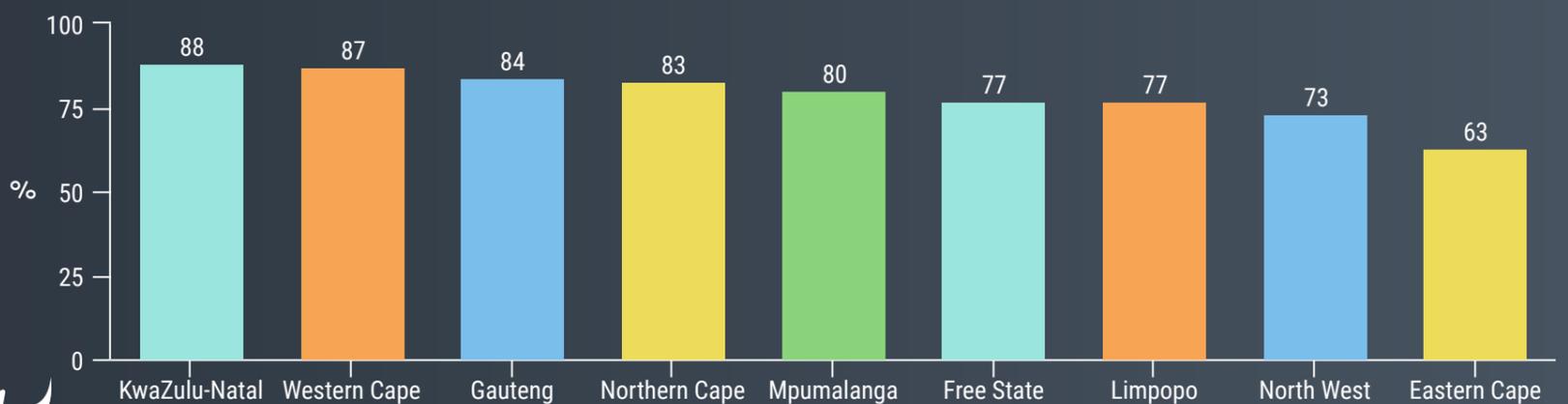


Many schools lack the necessary facilities to function effectively. This will be exacerbated by Covid-19 measures. Learners in lower school quintiles will be most affected.



Teacher Availability

Schools (primary and secondary) where allocated teaching posts were all filled (2017)

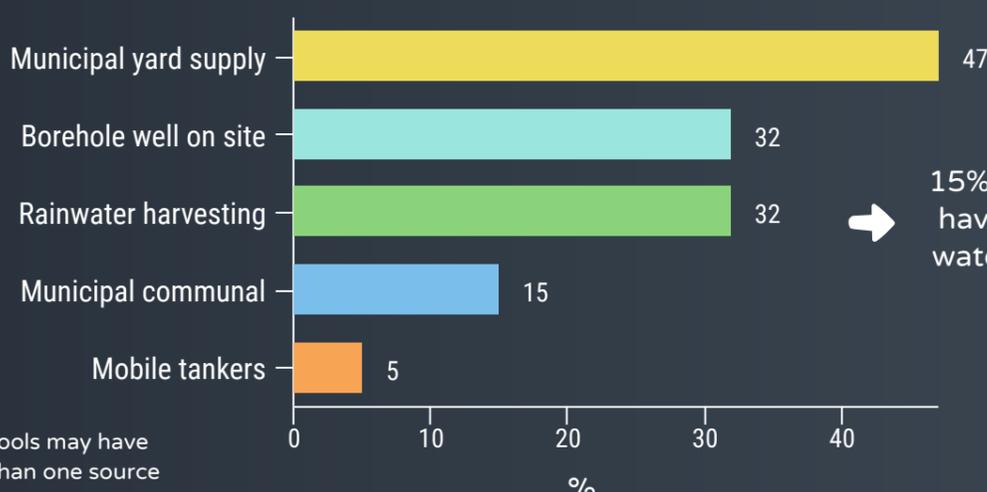


Teacher shortages will be exacerbated by measures, such as social distancing which will require smaller classes; and teachers with comorbidities will not be able to go to school.



Capacity for Maintaining Good Hygiene

Water sources (2019)**



** Schools may have more than one source

Ablution facilities (2019)

16%

of Public Ordinary Schools only have pit latrines



Some schools lack the facilities required for maintaining good hygiene practices to avoid Covid-19 infections.

1. Department of Basic Education (2018). School Monitoring Survey 2017/2018: Technical Report. <https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/5.%20Technical%20Report%20School%20Monitoring%20Survey%202017-18.pdf?ver=2019-04-08-092847-947>.
 2. Department of Basic Education (2019). National Education Infrastructure Management System Standard Report: August 2019. <https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/NEIMS%20standard%20reports%202019.pdf?ver=2019-09-27-150623-250>.