

Libya closes schools over virus fears

March 13 2020

Libya's rival governments on Friday both announced a two-week closure of schools and universities over fears of the novel coronavirus arriving in the country.

The education ministries of the Tripoli-based unity [government](#) and its eastern-based rival announced in separate statements that all the country's schools, both public and private, will be closed from Sunday.

War-torn Libya is largely divided between forces backing the Government of National Accord and those of eastern-based military commander Khalifa Haftar, who backs a rival administration in the country's east.

To date, no cases of COVID-19 have been reported by either administration, but experts fear an outbreak could be catastrophic due to the country's degraded [health system](#).

Haftar's forces have been battling since last April to seize the capital, and hundreds of schools were already closed since the start of the offensive due to the fighting.

The battle has left over 1,000 people dead and displaced a further 150,000.

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