

UPDATE 9 - 23 MARCH 2020

Key messages

The Department of Education is working closely with the Department of Health, particularly Dr Andrew Robertson, the WA Chief Health Officer. We as a school will continue to follow their expert advice.

The Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPPC) releases regular updates. The latest can be found [here](#).

On 22 March State Premiers and Chief Ministers agreed that at this time schools will remain open through to the end of the current school term to support students whose parents choose to send them to school. This does not alter our previous advice.

Teachers are not expected to provide work packages for students whose parents have chosen to keep them home without seeking medical advice, before the end of Term1. The priority for staff is to maintain focus on classroom learning programs. Please refer to the section on “COVID-19 Curriculum support guidelines” below.

COVID-19 Curriculum support guidelines

Schools are making preparations for continuity of teaching and learning in the event of a significant disruption to student learning, including the potential for a temporary school closure. The Department of Education is working to provide online access to resources for parents, caregivers and students. This will be through the [Learning at home](#) website. The website is now available and resources will continue to be added over the coming weeks.

Attendance at school

On Sunday 15 March, the Prime Minister introduced measures placed on international arrivals into Australia. This means a mandatory 14 day self-isolation requirement will be placed on all international arrivals into Australia effective from 16 March, 2020.

As of 1.30pm on Tuesday 24 March, new restrictions and arrival requirements to travel to Western Australia from other Australian States and Territories will apply.

All of the above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

Who cannot attend school

Students or staff cannot attend school and need to self-isolate if they have:

- a) returned from overseas travel, they must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of return to Australia;
- b) returned from interstate travel, from 1.30pm on Tuesday 24 March, they must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of return to Western Australia;
- c) been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case and they must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case;
- d) been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results should follow the advice of the

Department of Health and stay away from school.

The above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

Parents/carers and staff should notify their school or line manager if the student or staff member will be away for the isolation period and confirm the date in which they were last overseas, or have been advised by the Department of Health to isolate.

Recording of student absences

Reasonable absence (code R) is used in the case of:

- students who are self-isolating due to Department of Health advice;
- families keeping children home due to increased risk relating to children and family members who are in a higher risk category (e.g. diabetes, compromised immune systems);
- students with a reason provided as acceptable other than an absence due to suspension, cultural absence, illness or family holiday.
- families keeping their children home due to a perceived risk that they are safer at home than in a school setting due to possible transmission of the virus.

If the absence does not meet the criteria above, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Students whose parents have chosen to keep them home, without seeking medical advice, may not be provided curriculum work and activities. The priority for staff is to maintain focus on classroom learning programs. In the event of a temporary school closure, further advice will be provided.

Temporary school closure

If Anne Hamersley Primary School has to close due to a confirmed case, it will be on advice from the WA Health Department's Chief Health Officer.

The Chief Health Officer will, if there has been a positive COVID-19 case identified, close the school temporarily while assessment and tracing of exposure is conducted. A thorough school clean will then be carried out to make the school safe for the return of students and staff.

Further information is available at www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus or the healthdirect helpline on **1800 020 080** for more information on the virus and its symptoms.

[Information for parents and schools](#)