



Southern Cross DHS COVID-19 Outbreak Response: Parents and Carers




Please contact Karen Tabner on 9086 9000 or Karen.Tabner@education.wa.edu.au as soon as COVID-19 has been confirmed.

This will initiate the Department of Education's communication and actions to confirm the case, plan the response and inform the school community accordingly. When the school administration is made aware that there is a positive case in the community, notification will be sent to staff and families using the following channels.

- An initial message will be sent to staff and families through SMS informing them of a positive case in the school community. Please note; there is usually a delay in time from the school knowing about a case, before the Department of Health can confirm. Communication at this time may be that the case is not yet confirmed.
- Once the case is confirmed, a more specific message outlining the course of action will be sent through Email/SMS to the staff and families of those students who are deemed to be close contacts once advised by the Department of Health.
- A follow up Email/SMS post will be sent to all families based on the advice from the Department of Health to communicate the course of action taken.

A COVID-19 outbreak will result in students and staff being required to isolate. This might include one or more classes, a small group of people, or the whole school. As a school, we are committed to ensure all students are safe, supported and able to continue their learning, whether at school or home. In addition to school support for students to learn in the home, the Department of Education has developed learning and student wellbeing online resources that are available to all families at [Learning at Home](#). These online resources will include advice and support for parents/carers and students.

<p>Learning from Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom teachers have planned for learning to continue through the compilation of printed work packages. • Packs are to be picked up from a designated spot at the school, mailed to out of town families if arrangements can't be made to have them picked up, or the Administration Team will deliver to your front door if you live in town and are already in isolation. <p>If it's a whole school closure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be directed by the Chief Health Officer. • The home learning program will be provided through work packages provided by your child's teacher. An education assistant may assist with this. <p>If the whole class is isolating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The home learning program will be provided through work packages provided by your child's teacher. An education assistant may assist with this. • If the teacher is unwell, another staff member from the school will coordinate this. • The teacher or another staff member at school will make contact with you to provide support and answer any questions. <p>If only a small group is isolating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The home learning program will be provided by your child's teacher or another teacher. This will depend on whether the teacher is in isolation or at school, and well or unwell. • The learning program will be coordinated with the learning program of the children at school for consistency. • The teacher or another staff member at school will make contact with you to provide support and answer any questions. 	<p>Communication</p> <p>Emails and SMS will continue to be our main form of communication. Individual phone calls will also be made by your child's teacher and other staff at the school to check in regarding your child's learning, attendance (see below) and your child's overall health and wellbeing. If additional support is needed, please mention it during these phone calls or contact the school.</p> <p>If somebody from the school phones from their personal mobile phone, it may show as a blocked number. If this is the case, staff will let you know in advance that they will be phoning.</p> <p>School Details: Phone: 9048 9000 Email: SouthernCrossDHS@education.wa.edu.au</p> <p>Social media can bring risks through misinformation, hurtful comments and unhelpful content. Get information from accurate sources and be mindful about what you post in social media accounts. Please report any concerning social media posts to the school.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>We will be reaching out regularly to make sure you are okay. This will be through class teachers, education assistants and other staff in the school. Keep your child physically active and socially engaged as much as possible. Resources to support mental health and wellbeing at home can be found at:</p> <p>Support for parents and carers - Department of Education</p> <p>If your child needs somebody to talk to, they can phone the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800</p>  <p>Should your child be required to have a COVID-19 test, information on COVID-19 testing is available through the Department of Health.</p>
	<p>Attendance</p> <p>If your child is required to isolate and is unwell, there is no expectation that they complete learning at home. In this case, please contact the school on 9048 9000 or via SMS and they will be recorded as being sick. When they are well enough to resume learning at home please contact the school to change their Attendance Code.</p> <p>If your child is required to isolate and they are well, they are expected to engage in the learning program. The teacher or another staff member will be making contact to ensure that your child is participating in the learning program. This counts as attending school.</p> <p>If your child is not doing the learning program, this is recorded as being an unexplained absence. You will receive the standard SMS message for a child being absent from school, and somebody from the school will contact you to support your child to learn at home.</p>	<p>What to do now to prepare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have some stationery supplies ready (lead pencil, coloured pencils, scissors, ruler, paper). • Think about the area your child will use for learning. Ideally, this is in a central area where they can be supervised. • Have the school contact numbers handy so that you can contact the school when needed.