

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What are the rules around Pick up and Drop off?**

To ensure social distancing between adults is in place at schools, parents are requested to drop off and pick up their children at school gates, or nearby.

### **Can Parents enter a School Site?**

Parents can only enter the school grounds for pre-arranged parent/carer meetings with staff for the purposes of enrolment, case conference, student behaviour and engagement, medical reasons or other emergencies.

### **What safety precautions will be in place for staff and students?**

The WA Chief Health Officer letter which was sent to all school staff states:

- Schools are safe for staff and students and should stay open
- That school staff and children are not at increased risk of COVID-19 by physically attending school; and
- That there have been no cases of student-to-student transmission in Western Australia and no cases of student to teacher transmission.

From Monday 18 May, based on Health advice, the following applies:

- increased environmental cleaning throughout the day, including high touch surfaces, change rooms and playground equipment;
- parents/carers and visitors will continue to drop students at the gate unless for a pre-arranged appointment;
- additional hygiene measures including encouraging handwashing;
- canteens continue to provide takeaway service and may provide limited dine-in service
- excursions, assemblies, camps and interschool activities will not be conducted;
- interschool activities and camps will not be conducted;
- visitors to school sites should be limited to essential health, wellbeing, case management and maintenance providers, and occur only when the school can assure adherence to social distancing requirements, increased cleaning of used areas and minimise contact with the broader school population.

### **What are the arrangements for teaching and learning from Monday 18 May 2020?**

- From Week 4, Monday 18 May 2020, all students are expected to attend school, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.
- This means students are either:
  - at school;
  - have a medical referral to learn from home;
  - recorded as absent if they do not attend; or
  - students who are unwell, should stay home.
- If a student does not attend school without a medical reason, they will be marked as absent and will not be provided a learning program.

### **Should students with medical conditions return to school?**

- Parents and carers of students with a medical condition, or a family member/carer in their home with medical condition, should seek medical advice.
- If the advice is that their child should not attend school, the parent/carer should notify the school and provide the school with medical evidence such as a medical certificate.
- Where a student/parent or carer's pre-existing medical condition is already known to the school, no medical evidence is required.
- The school will complete a brief medical referral form in consultation with the family and send to SSEN Medical and Mental Health (SSEN: MMH).
- The student's school will continue to provide support to the student while the medical referral is progressed.
- The student will not be marked as absent during this period.

- SSEN: MMH will process the referral form and make contact with the student's school to determine the best way to support the student's learning at home. This will include engagement with the student's parents.
- This support may include assistance for school-based distance learning, utilisation of the Connected Learning Hub, priority access to SIDE and/or direct support from the teachers at SSEN: MMH.

**Where students are medically referred to continue to learn from home, how will they continue to be taught?**

- Where schools can provide online support and teaching for students at home, they will.
- Where the school does not have the capacity to maintain the support for the student, SSEN: MMH will develop learning plan, in partnership with the school, for the student.
- Students in ATAR pathways will continue with their courses and undertake required assessments where possible.
- Students who are currently accessing support from other Schools of Special Educational Needs (e.g. SSEN: Disability) will continue to receive this support.

**When a student lives with a family member who has a medical condition, do they need to attend school?**

- When a student lives with a family member who has a medical condition, the same process above applies.

**What support is available to parents if their child is medically referred to continue to learn from home?**

- Schools are the main point of contact for parents with children learning at home.
- Schools will provide clear advice and guidelines to assist parents of medically referred students who are learning at home.
- A helpline for parents (1800 882 345) has been set up to further assist parents.

**Can a parent choose to keep their child at home if they are not medically referred to do so?**

- No. They will be marked as absent (U / unauthorised).
- Every day away from school has a negative impact on student learning.
- If a student does not have medical referral to learn from home it is expected that they attend school.

**Is it expected that schools continue to provide learning programs for those students who stay at home but are not medically referred to do so?**

- No. For students who are absent without a medical referral, there is no expectation for the school to continue to provide learning programs or work packages.

**What support is there for parents who are having difficulty getting their child to attend school?**

Parents/carers who are having difficulty getting their child to attend school should make contact with the school they are currently enrolled in to discuss options and develop a plan.

**What arrangements are in place for Semester 1 reporting to parents?**

- P-10 reports will use the standard Department-endorsed template.
- There is **no requirement** to report student achievement for Pre-primary to Year 10 using A-E grades or an equivalent 5-point scale.
- There is still a requirement to provide parents with information about students' learning progress to date in the semester 1 report.

There are no other changes to reporting requirements.



### **Can school canteens move to full service if dining facilities exist?**

- Canteens continue to provide takeaway service and may provide limited dine-in service for up to 20 people, where they can meet social distancing requirements.

### **Are school libraries open?**

- Yes.

### **Can incursions recommence?**

- Only incursions for the purpose of course completion (senior school subjects) should proceed. However, they should not exceed 20 people in total, and supervisors/staff are to maintain social distancing.

### **Can excursions recommence?**

- Only excursions for the purpose of course completion (senior school subjects) should proceed. However, they should not exceed 20 people in total, and supervisors/staff are to maintain social distancing.

### **Can work placement and work experience continue?**

- Senior secondary students that are school-based apprentices or trainees can continue their related part-time employment in order to complete their qualification.
- Schools must confirm employers will provide a COVID-19 safe work environment consistent with Health guidelines.

### **Can the P&C and School Board/Council meet on site out of hours?**

- P&C, School Board/Council meetings can resume after hours for up to 20 people.
- Social distancing, good hygiene practices and the 4 sqm rule per person applies to all meetings.
- Enhanced cleaning of all facilities used for meetings is required.

### **What about students who have a contractual arrangement as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship?**

- Senior secondary students that are school-based apprentices or trainees can continue their related part-time employment in order to complete their qualification.
- Schools must confirm employers will provide a COVID-19 safe work environment consistent with Health guidelines.

### **Can students undertake work placements or work experience?**

- No. Work placements and work experience cannot take place at this time and should be re-scheduled for later in the year.