



Department of Education

Office of the Secretary

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23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to keep you informed of our plans for schools during these uncertain times.

At this point in time, the advice from national Public Health officials remains clear: schools are safe to remain open for students and staff. This, in part, recognises the additional effort that schools are going to, such as implementing regular cleaning of hard surfaces, regularly reinforcing handwashing and good hygiene, and cancelling non-essential activities, such as sports carnivals and assemblies.

As such, all Tasmanian Government School sites remain open, recognising the incredibly important role our schools, our teachers and our school staff play supporting the education and wellbeing of our children and young people. I am sure you can all attest to the fact that our staff are doing a fantastic job in not only supporting the learning, but also the wellbeing of your children and young people during this difficult and uncertain time.

As was nationally agreed on Sunday night, from this week (in Tasmania's case Wednesday, 25 March 2020), parents and carers may choose to keep their children home due to COVID-19 should they wish. The Premier has announced that parents and carers who choose to do so, must take responsibility for ensuring that they are safe, not mixing and not putting themselves or others at risk. We also ask that you notify your school in writing if you intend to keep your child/ren at home.

We respect that this is an individual decision for each family, and should you choose to keep your child/ren home we will provide you with opportunities to help your children continue to learn from home, but only so far as it is reasonable. Where this occurs we ask that you support your child or young person to complete the learning assigned.

In addition we ask that if your child shows signs of being unwell, that you do not send them to school. If a child becomes unwell during the course of the day you will be required to come and collect them as a matter of priority.

Our term dates remain the same, and we will review our school situation again after the Term 1 holidays and provide further advice at this time. The wellbeing and learning of our students will continue to be our main priority, and I would like to thank you all for your ongoing patience and support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Bullard".

Tim Bullard
Secretary
Department of Education