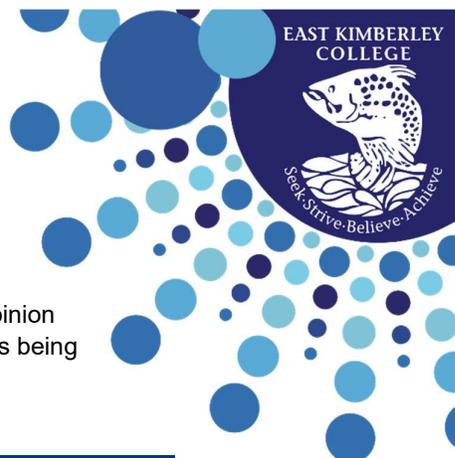


COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 2

East Kimberley College Families

24 March, 2020



Please note, if something is not explicitly outlined in a weekly update you can safely assume it will proceed, or can continue. If you are unsure please do not hesitate to ask, directing all questions to the Executive Team. While personal opinion is divided, you are sincerely thanked for the respect being shown to the directives being issued by the Department of Education and subsequently actioned by EKC.

Social Media

All staff are reminded of the expectation to apply caution in relation to the use of social media. As an employee of the Department of Education you are reminded to follow the Code of Conduct at all times. This reminder comes as a result of a small number of staff neglecting to exercise considered professional judgement.

NAPLAN

As per the following link <https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/-/naplan-2020> please be advised that NAPLAN will not be proceeding during 2020. The training completed by test administrators during last week's Trade-Off not only counts towards your trade-off for Tuesday 3 June, but also your TRB required hours of professional learning.



Essential and Non-Essential educational activities

The activities currently continuing at the College and across the State, are deemed as "essential" educational activities and therefore, will continue until such time as our one source of truth, the WA Department of Health, informs us otherwise.

Health and fitness and well-being activities are being deemed "essential" and as such will continue at the College until deemed a risk. The Department will soon be releasing a statement on school sport and we will ensure it is communicated as soon as it is received.

Events such as Swimming Carnivals and the School Ball are not deemed "essential" activities as they involve static gathering, and schools are not exempt from this measure, as the risk of transmission is increased during such periods of prolonged gathering.

Our students are to be commended for the manner in which they have adapted to the changes being implemented, almost daily. In particular, we acknowledge our Senior School students, who with the utmost maturity and optimism, respected the decision regarding the School Ball. It is an absolute privilege to be in a school with such amazing role models!

Camps and Excursions

As a reminder the following criteria is currently being used to consider all foreseeable future activities. All Term 2 activities are currently on hold and will be reviewed by Executive towards the end of the Term. Staff are encouraged to be creative with what activities could be facilitated, that align with the current health advice and parameters set by the school. Innovative thinking regarding this is encouraged!

Current EKC considerations:

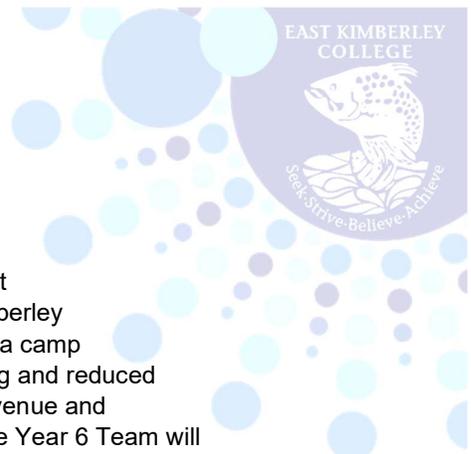
- Whether it is curriculum-based and an essential activity;
- The geographic location of the activity;
- The extent of staff and student exposure to individuals external to the College during the activity;
- If it is an overnight activity;
- The number of overall participants and social distancing.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 2

East Kimberley College Families

24 March, 2020



Year 6 Camp

Unfortunately, the upcoming Year 6 camp, scheduled to be held in Term 3 at Bachelor NT, has been cancelled following a recommendation from the Kimberley Educational Regional Office. The planning and fundraising requirements of a camp of this kind have become untenable in the current climate of social distancing and reduced community activity. These barriers, combined with the uncertainty of future venue and personnel access, has meant that the event has been deemed unviable. The Year 6 Team will work together to identify alternative activities to provide students with leadership and life skill development opportunities at a suitable time later in the year. Your understanding is appreciated at this time as we place student and staff wellbeing at the forefront of this decision.

The following activities have now been postponed or adapted to the current conditions:



- ANZAC Service will now take place over the PA;
- Language Nest visits have been cancelled until further notice;
- Year 6 Camp preparations have ceased;
- Work Place Learning (Yr 10-12) cancelled;
- All other activities will be reviewed closer to the end of Term.

Term Two's calendar of events is currently under review and families will be notified of changes in the near future.

Work Place Learning Program

Unfortunately, due to the pressures currently placed on local small businesses, the Work Place Learning program for Term 2 has been suspended. This is inclusive of:

- Year 11 & 12 VET Students (blocks Week's 3 & 8)
- Year 10.2 (block Week 5)
- Year 10.1 (block Week 8)
- Work Ready WPL (each Wednesday)

Teachers of these students are advised that students will follow their regular school programs and to plan accordingly. There will be a small number of exceptions to this, inclusive of students who do not attend TAFE on Friday's due to "Block Training". WPL arrangements may continue for these individuals, in consultation with employers.

Student Stationery

Students are encouraged to bring their own stationery to school to avoid the use of shared equipment.

Assemblies and Merit Certificates

Although assemblies have been postponed, East Kimberley College is determined to acknowledge student progress and success via merit certificates and encouragement awards. Please see below the Primary and Secondary updates.

Primary Update

Due to the cancellation of assemblies we have arranged for students to be presented with Merit Certificates during Period 1 on Friday of Week 8. Merit Certificates will be presented to students in class by a member of the Primary Leadership Team. A photo will be taken and forwarded to families on the day.

Secondary Update

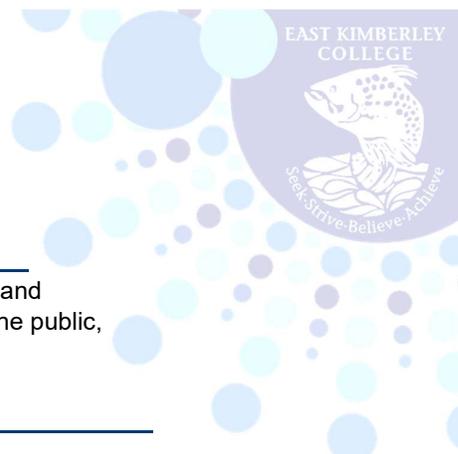
Encouragement Awards will be presented to students before the end of Term One.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 2

East Kimberley College Families

24 March, 2020



Leisure & Resource Centres Closure

Until further notice, the Leisure Centre has closed as of 12pm Monday 23 March and its facilities not accessible for school or public use. The Library is also closed to the public, however, remains open for EKC access.

A message from the Director General



to view message

COVID-19 Curriculum Continuity Guidelines

We are to commence 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. To support schools, curriculum resources will be available on a public website as of Monday 23 March. This will be available for both staff and parents to use.

Recording Student Absences

The use of a Reasonable absence (code R) is to be used in the case of:

- students who are self-isolating due to Department of Health advice;
- 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
- students with a reason deemed as acceptable other than an absence due to suspension, cultural absence, illness or family holiday

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

The College respects the decision of families electing to self-isolate due to increased risk, however, should parents elect to withdraw their children from school, without a direction from Government, there is no requirement for teachers to provide additional work for those students. To that end, no EKC staff member will be required to provide work for students currently absent due to COVID-19.



Mass Gatherings

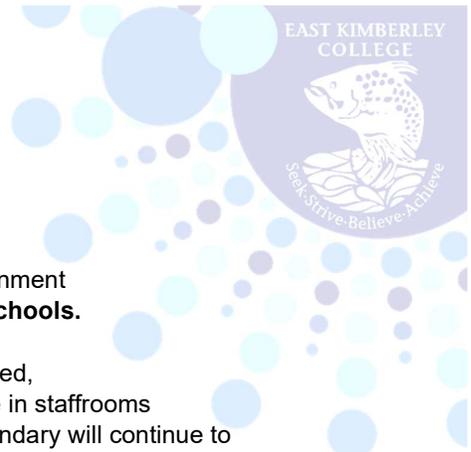
On Wednesday, 18 March the Australian Government announced that all organised, non-essential mass gatherings attended by more than 100 people for indoor events and more than 500 people for outdoors events must be cancelled from Wednesday 18 March 2020.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 2

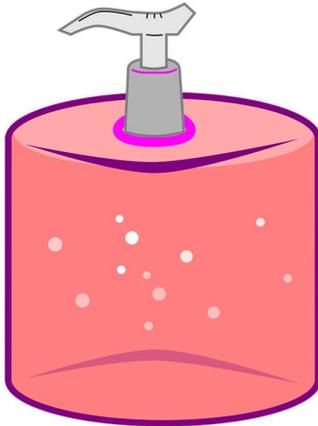
East Kimberley College Families

24 March, 2020



On Friday, 20 March the Australian Government announced further measures relating to gatherings of fewer than 100 people in an enclosed space. The Government is now recommending four square metres per person. **This does not apply to schools.**

In regard to the EKC context, staff are encouraged to continue to exercise informed, professional judgements relevant to their setting. Staff may wish to minimise time in staffrooms during DOTT and work from their classroom as an alternative, for example. Secondary will continue to run their opt-in Monday morning 10-minute staff catch-up meetings, as this was voted by the staff to continue.



Further Preventative Measures

The College is committed to maintaining a supply of hand sanitiser for students and staff and as such has proactively initiated the production of its own hand sanitiser. With two qualified Chemists on staff and a further staff member with a Graduate Certificate in Industrial Hygiene, you can rest assured this product will be of the highest quality, and produced using the World Health Organisation recipe, which has been distributed to schools, and further advice provided as follows.

Hand Sanitiser Recipe

The World Health Organisation published on their website how to make your own hand sanitiser. Please keep in mind the following OH&S guidelines:

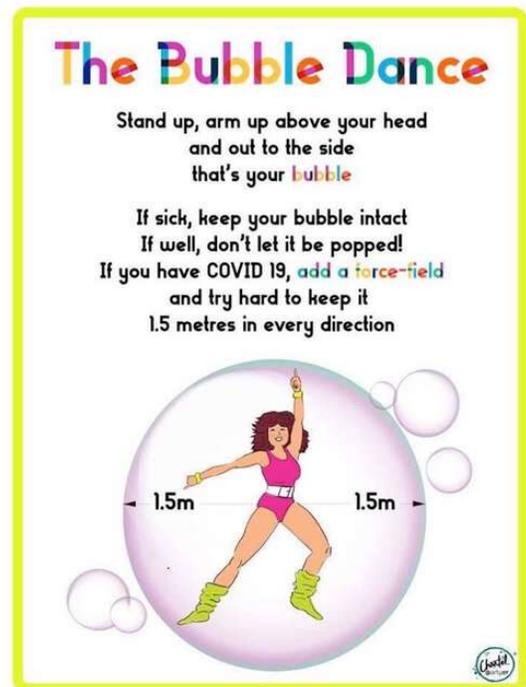
- To avoid contamination with spore-forming organisms, disposable bottles should preferably be used.
- To prevent evaporation, containers should have a maximum capacity of 500 ml.
- The production or re-filling unit should follow norms on how to clean and disinfect the bottles (e.g. autoclaving, boiling, or chemical disinfection with chlorine).
- Autoclaving is considered the most suitable procedure. Reusable bottles should never be refilled until they have been completely emptied and then cleansed and disinfected.
- Bottles should be thoroughly washed with detergent and tap water to eliminate any residual liquid. If they are heat-resistant, bottles should be thermally disinfected by boiling in water.
- Production and storage facilities should be ideally air-conditioned or cool rooms. Open flames and smoking must be strictly prohibited in production and storage areas.
- While sterile distilled water is preferred for making the formulations, boiled and cooled tap water may also be used as long as it is free of visible particles.

Further reading and safety advice can be sought from the WHO guidelines.

Hand Washing in Primary Classes by School Nurse

Our school nurse, Ruth Rummery-Hoath, will be facilitating hand washing Week's 8 and 9.

Posters in Miriwoong language will be displayed throughout the College to assist our Aboriginal community understand the risks and provide advice.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 2

East Kimberley College Families

24 March, 2020



School Closures

The Department stance is clear, schools are to remain open and will only be closed as a last resort, as a significant increase in the transmission of COVID-19 will be the result if students do not attend school.

While there are personal opinions on this decision, having had this explicitly communicated means we are expected to continue providing all students attending the College with the best possible education. The social distancing measures in place across the country do not apply to schools and therefore, you can continue to operate as normal in your classroom, while adding the additional hand washing and hygiene measures. These additional measures have been noted and greatly appreciated by the community, as students have been informing their parents of your actions and feedback has been coming into the College on a daily basis thanking you for your concerted effort. Well done, Team, keep it up!

Schools being ordered to remain open will inevitably test us all mentally and physically, so we must begin making a concerted effort to consciously protect our mental health and well-being by switching off the TV and not scrolling through Facebook, rather taking advantage of the amazing landscapes our community has to offer every opportunity we get.

Health and Hygiene Update

Our Manager Corporate Services Lisa Oliver has had further meetings with our cleaners and praised them for their diligence in light of current circumstances with the threat of COVID-19. All cleaners received a copy of the Ed-e-mail issued on Friday 20 March and a revised copy of the "Fundamentals of Cleaning" with regards to the expectations of cleaners in our schools. Thank you to every one of our cleaners for keeping up the good work in making our school a clean and safe place to be.

Cleaning [guidelines](#) have been developed based on advice from the WA Department of Health, in consultation with the United Worker's Union. These guidelines (Item 8 – Cleaning of schools and workplaces) must be followed by any staff undertaking cleaning duties in schools and other workplaces.

We would also like to inform you that we have sourced 100 x 500ml pump bottles of hand sanitiser for our classrooms and reception areas, along with 2 x 20L hand sanitiser for refills. This stock should be delivered to the College by the end of the week.

Please continue to let Lisa know if you do not have soap or paper towel in your rooms or areas so this can be addressed immediately. Notifying Lisa via email, rather than in person, would be greatly appreciated.

Students returning from Boarding facilities

Families with students returning from boarding school will be directed to the School and Community Library should they be seeking a facility for students to study. While the Library is closed to the public, exceptions will be made for student's schooling away.

New Directions to protect remote Aboriginal communities from COVID-19

In response to the State's pandemic response plan, access in and out of remote Aboriginal communities will be restricted. It also enforces the self-isolation measures that many communities are already observing.

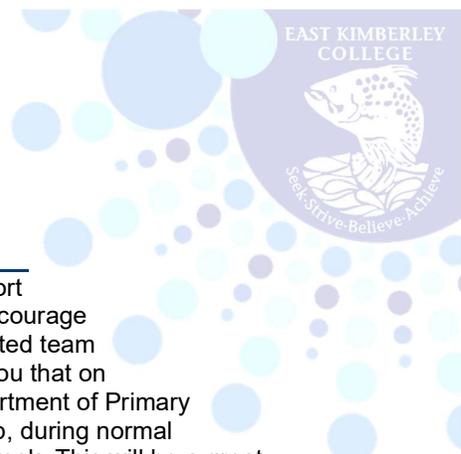
Under the Directions, any person outside the boundary of a remote Aboriginal community must not enter the boundaries of the community. A person within a remote Aboriginal community must also remain within the boundaries of that community. These Directions apply to each remote Aboriginal community across the State. The Department is working with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to explore exemptions for Department staff and children and young people who reside in the community. More information will be provided shortly.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 2

East Kimberley College Families

24 March, 2020



Follow the Dream

Thank you to all staff who have continued to support student attendance at FTD. We will continue to encourage attendance through a weekly raffle and our motivated team of passionate tutors. I am also pleased to inform you that on Tuesday 31 March we will be traveling to the Department of Primary Industries for a site visit and employment workshop, during normal tuition hours. Notes will be going home early this week. This will be a great opportunity for students interested in agriculture and science.



Clontarf Academy

Clontarf will be continuing to support the well-being of our young men through daily check ins at option classes, recess and lunch time activities such as Uno, table tennis and playing guitars, classroom visits and junior football on Friday afternoons. This Wednesday the Clontarf Academy will be hosting a "Good Bunch & Good Bloke" Lunch to acknowledge the fellas who are 100% attenders, and who behave properly for their teachers. It's also an opportunity to acknowledge the young fellas who show pride in the Clontarf badge.



Clontarf will continue to ensure our fellas are maintaining proper hygiene practices through on going messages and strict supervision during options and break times.



Girls Academy

Thank you to all parents and carers who have continued to support and encourage their girls to attend school.

We also understand the decision of some families that have chosen to keep their children at home as a precaution, to maintain the good health of your family.

Kununurra Girls Academy will continue to support and encourage the girls to attend school and reward them for their efforts. Raffle tickets will be given to students who continue to engage with in-school activities such as Form, and recess and lunch programs. This week we will be introducing an Academy check-in at every lunch time and at Friday forms. This will be a safe place for the girls to express themselves and their concerns during this uncertain time, in the hopes to maintain good mental health and wellbeing.

In regard to the Girls Academy doing our part with healthy hygiene practices, students will be asked to wash their hands upon entering the Academy each visit.

In the end it will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be quite apparent if we under reacted or did too little. I know we won't always make the right decisions, but we commit to making honourable decisions every day as we navigate this ever-changing landscape together.

We are all in this together and must support each other to adapt to the new normal. Our individual mindsets will play a key role in achieving this.

"When you can't control what's happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what's happening. That's where the power is."

Kate Wilson
Principal

