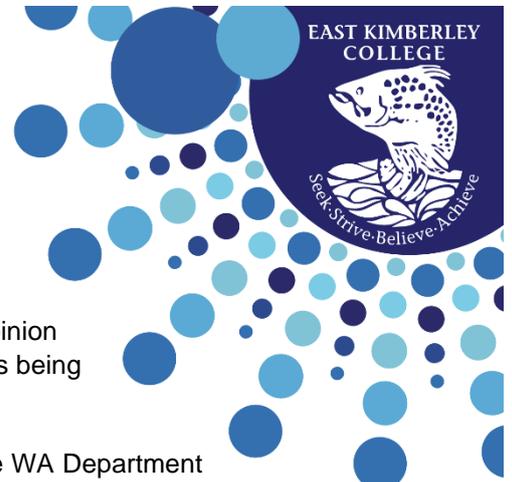


COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 5

East Kimberley College Families

2 April, 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.

A friendly reminder that the source of truth for the Department of Education is the WA Department of Health, therefore, caution should be exercised when listening to statements made by the Premier and PM.

COVID-19 in Kununurra

We are aware of information circulating through the school community regarding a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Kununurra. I want to reassure you that no member of the EKC staff has tested positive to COVID-19 at this point in time.

When there is a known case of COVID-19 that poses a risk to our students and staff, the Chief Health Officer will inform our school and the Department as an urgent priority.

When this information has been received we will inform you of what actions we will be taking to ensure the continued health and wellbeing of your child/ren. This information will be shared with you as a high priority.

All Western Australian public schools are being supported by the Department of Education to implement a plan in relation to COVID-19. Our current focus is on minimising and preventing transmission and making sure our school is prepared for a possible case.

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we will continue to follow advice from the Department of Education and make sure you are regularly updated.

I know there is uncertainty, however I want to assure you we are committed to the health and wellbeing of your child/ren.



Who are “essential service workers”?

As communicated by the PM, schools remain open for the purpose of assisting essential service workers. EKC recognises the need to support the Kununurra community at this time and as such has developed its own list of essential service workers and welcomes the students of these occupations to attend school for “onsite” learning.

The essential services defined by EKC include:

- Health Services
- Emergency Services
- Defence and Policing
- Mining industry workforces
- Flight crews
- Transport and logistics (freight of essential goods)
- Utilities (water, power, gas, plumbing and telecommunications only)
- Education and Training

We will also be exercising compassion and offering “onsite” learning to the students of single parents working full-time.

Further to this, as the health and safety of our staff is also important, we seek your support to not send your student to school if you have the capacity to keep them at home, despite being an essential services worker.



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Travel Restrictions

East Kimberley College staff recognise the magnitude of the new legislation in relation to travel restrictions and acknowledge the only exemption the Director General will consider is for Remote Staff. It is not the Director General's intention to authorise any further written exemptions.

Staff will be exercising common-sense and staying in Kununurra during the holidays.

COVID-19 Curriculum Continuity via Distance Education

At East Kimberley College we are confidently advancing towards the implementation of a Distance Education model for the continuity of curriculum for all EKC students during Term 2, and it is with enthusiasm and excitement that we present our model to you. The online platform of choice used to assist in this model of curriculum delivery will be WebEx.

Please access the following links for more detailed information.

[Video](#)

[Slide Show Presentation](#)

Additional information will be provided during Week 10.

Secondary School update – SCSA

Our Senior School students have been at the forefront of our minds, in particular our Year 12 students, and we can assure you they will not be disadvantaged as a result of the events that are unfolding.

We can confirm the following:

- SCSA will work with schools to ensure that valid and reliable assessments are used to calculate school grades.
- It is too early to call if there will be any changes to the ATAR and ATAR course examinations.
- SCSA has processes in place to ensure that students are not disadvantaged as a result of events that are beyond their control.
- SCSA confirmed that no WACE-eligible student completing their WACE in 2020 will be disadvantaged due to the decision by an organisation to cancel the work placement required for their VET qualification as a result of COVID-19.
- SCSA has an established process to ensure that students working toward their WACE are not disadvantaged by circumstances arising from RTO certification and resulting processes.
- Any student's work experience can be cancelled with no adverse effect to the WACE.



School Playgrounds

It is recommended that all schools with playgrounds and/or playground type equipment close them down until further notice. While schools may seek approval to maintain the use of playground equipment, a compelling school specific reason must be provided in order to do so. Unfortunately, EKC does not meet the criteria in order for a compelling reason to be approved and therefore, all playgrounds throughout the College will be out of action until further notice, as of Friday 3 April. Our gardeners are getting to work roping them off.



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Canteen

Most unfortunately the final day of operation of our canteen will be this Friday 3 April. From Week 10 onwards we are not permitted to operate our canteen.

We sincerely thank our Canteen Staff for maintaining a service to support staff and parents, despite running at a loss. Such a selfless actions and we are ever so grateful!

Week 10 Supervision arrangements

At present we have 74 students attending (58 primary and 16 secondary).

During Week 10 the primary area of the College will operate three groups for supervision (K-P, Year 1 – Year 3, and Year 4 – Year 6). In secondary only one group will operate, inclusive of senior school students.

It is with heartfelt thanks that I acknowledge those of you that have taken the time to check-in on myself and the EKC staff, it is ever so greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. Thank you!

Kate Wilson
Principal

