

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear parents and guardians

We know many of you are feeling worried and unsure about the effects of COVID-19 and this is entirely understandable. We are writing to provide you with an update about schools during these challenging times.

Ongoing learning is important in maintaining children's sense of security and wellbeing. Maintaining a sense of normality is key to this.

Firstly, we assure you that the health and safety of students and staff is our absolute top priority. We are working daily with our Health colleagues to get the best advice. Hand washing and appropriate cleaning is a priority for all our schools.

We know there is a lot of community debate about whether school sites should close. For your information we would like to share a recent letter written by Mark Veitch, Director Public Health, available online at http://www.health.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/396373/School_Closure_-_DPH.pdf. You will see that the current advice is for schools to remain open.

The situation is constantly evolving and we will continue to take expert advice and respond accordingly, and commit to keeping you updated. We would also like to share a FAQ document you might find useful.

For up to date information about COVID-19 please visit the Public Health website at: https://dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/communicable_diseases_prevention_unit/infectious_diseases/coronavirus. There is also information available on the Department of Education website at <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/alerts/>.

Yours sincerely

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

Tim Bullard
SECRETARY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Rockliff".

Jeremy Rockliff MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Encl.