

COVID-19 WA LOCKDOWN – 2021 UPDATE 2

Since writing to you yesterday, we have spoken with the Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools in WA (AISWA), viewed all of the communication provided by the Department of Education and held a meeting of SCEA's Senior Leadership Team. It is clear that this lockdown is very different from the approach adopted by the Premier last year when schools were expected to provide 'on campus' learning for the children of essential services workers and deliver educational programs for all other students in an online format. For the remainder of this week, many West Australian schools in the Perth, Peel and Southwest regions will treat this as an extended holiday for students.

The situation across our SCEA schools is quite different because we have already returned from holidays and our learning programs commenced last week. Therefore, we are in a position to provide some learning support for students this week, particularly for our students in their senior years of schooling (Years 11 and 12).

This morning at our Senior Leadership Team meeting, an agreement was reached that each SCEA school will provide some Learning Assistance (LA) resources and suggestions for students that are intended to help families continue their child's learning journey. The roll-out of these will commence from tomorrow (Tuesday) and will reflect the needs of each school context. The resources provided initially will not generally include significant interactive video conferencing sessions or pre-recorded lessons. If the lockdown is extended beyond the end of this week and the Premier allows teachers to return to school sites, this level of resource can be re-introduced.

Our highest priority at SCEA is always the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and students, so it is critical that we continue to take our advice and direction from the Department of Health and Department of Education regarding this situation. As further information is made available to us, we will send out additional updates. Our hope is that this lockdown will not extend beyond the end of this week and we can all return to school campuses next week. If this is not possible, we will need to shift to an 'off-campus' learning delivery mode and develop Home Learning (HL) resources, as we did during last year's lock-down.

Finally, let's remember what God spoke to Joshua when he was confronted with the need to lead the children of Israel out of the wilderness and face the challenges of entering the promised land. Multiple times in the first chapter of Joshua God says to him 'be bold and courageous'. Now is one of those times when we too need to hear those words from God.

Blessings,

Dr Graeme Cross

Chief Executive Officer