**COVID-19 Update: JUST IN - Advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee regarding schools**

The AHPPC has today updated its advice regarding physical (social) distancing in schools, preschools and early childhood services.

The AHPPC does not believe that the following is appropriate or practical in classrooms or corridors:

* maintaining 1.5m between students
* the ‘venue density rule’ of no more than 1 person per 4 square metres.

The AHPPC continues to note that there is very limited evidence of transmission between children in the school environment, and population screening overseas has shown very low incidences of positive cases in school-aged children.

AHPPC believes that adults in the school environment should practice room density measures (such as in staff rooms) given the greater risk of transmission between adults.

Please continue to maintain physical distance between you, your colleagues and parents/carers.

**Playgrounds and sandpits**

The department has worked with SA Health to apply AHPPC guidelines relating to playgrounds.

Cleaning playgrounds

* Playground equipment will be cleaned once a day (at a minimum) before recess. The equipment will be sprayed and wiped dry.
* This cleaning will be an addition to existing increased cleaning arrangements at schools and preschools.
* This will be funded centrally by the department.
* Please ensure children wash their hands with soap or hand sanitiser before and after using play equipment.

Sandpit Play

* Regularly clean the high use sand pit toys or remove toys if cleaning isn’t practicable (this is a site responsibility).
* Continue the usual safety measures in relation to sandpits, e.g. daily raking.
* Children should wash their hands before and after sandpit play.

Access to the Public

* Playgrounds and sandpits on school grounds should only be used by students during breaks and OSHC.
* Please restrict public access to playgrounds.
* Where playgrounds are not fenced, consider placing signage on the equipment.