

**MEMORANDUM****SEV:** 2014-022

TO: All Principals, Morwell area

FROM: John Allman, Regional Director

DATE: 28 February 2014

SUBJECT: Morwell Update

Thank you for your time this morning. Following our briefing, we have prepared a standard message for you to send to parents (see attached).

Advice is also being issued to all Victorian principals that, as a consequence of today's advice from the Department of Health, any school outside of Morwell may have parents/guardians seeking temporary enrolment for their child. All schools are to welcome such families. More advice will follow on recording the movement of students and other available assistance.

If you have any families wanting to arrange home schooling, the Distance Education Centre, Victoria (DECV) is able to support you with home/school packages or can enrol students with DECV and take on the management of this process.

Materials for students in F-6 are developed in 2-week modules and for students in years 7-10 in 4-week modules.

Further information for schools is available on 03 8480 0000 – ask for John Voglis or Fiona Webster, Assistant Principal.

Further information for parents is available on 03 8480 0000 – ask for the Enrolment Section.

We appreciate your ongoing individual efforts to plan breaks for your students from the smoke by organising excursions or rostering cohorts to another school for a day at a time. Please let us know if there is any further assistance you may need. Requests for reimbursements for costs incurred outside of your normal expenditure as a result of the Morwell mine fire should continue to be sent to Wayne Carmody, Finance Manager, South Eastern Victoria Region, email carmody.wayne.w@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

JOHN ALLMAN
Regional Director
South Eastern Victoria Region

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL TO PARENTS – FOR ALL SCHOOLS OTHER THAN COMMERCIAL ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Department of Health earlier today advised people with babies and pre-school aged children, people over 65, pregnant woman and people with a pre-existing heart or lung condition who live or work closest to the mine fire in Morwell South to consider temporarily relocating until air quality has improved.

This is a precautionary action only, as the advice is that health risks have not increased.

If this affects your family, it is important for your child that you think about how they will continue their schooling.

There are a number of things you can do.

You can continue sending your child to our school as normal. Our school is already providing students with relief from the smoke and ash by rotating them to other schools for a day at a time. We are also planning for excursions out of town. These activities will continue.

You can temporarily enrol your child at another Victorian government school that is closer to where you will be temporarily living. Simply contact that school, talk with the principal about your circumstances and they will assist you in settling your child into their new school. Find a school by visiting:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice/Home.aspx>

You can arrange for your child to do school work at home while you are temporarily living out of Morwell. Talk to your child's teacher or principal about how to organise this.

If you also have a child at Commercial Road Primary School, the existing arrangements will stay in place. Students will continue to go to one of three schools in Moe/Newborough, with no change to the bus to and from Commercial Road to these schools.

If you also have pre-school aged children and want information on how to access childcare and kindergarten services when you temporarily move out of Morwell, please register your details by calling the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on 03 9589 6266. The Department will assist with relevant information as soon as possible.

Assistance is available from the Department of Human Services for those who need it. People wanting help or advice can ring 1800 006 468 to discuss their needs.

The community assessment centre is also open from 8am to 8pm.

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL TO PARENTS - COMMERCIAL ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Department of Health earlier today advised people with babies and pre-school aged children, people over 65, pregnant woman and people with a pre-existing heart or lung condition who live or work closest to the mine fire in Morwell South to consider temporarily relocating until air quality has improved.

This is a precautionary action only, as the advice is that health risks have not increased.

If this affects your family, it is important for your child that you think about how they will continue their schooling.

There are a number of things you can do.

You can continue the existing arrangement of your child temporarily going to school at one of three schools in Moe/Newborough. The bus transport to and from Commercial Road to these schools will also continue. If you don't want to continue to use this bus service, please make other arrangements to get your child to and from school.

You can temporarily enrol your child at another Victorian government school that is closer to where you will be temporarily living. Simply contact that school, talk with the principal about your circumstances and they will assist you in settling your child into their new school. Find a school by visiting:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice/Home.aspx>

You can arrange for your child to do school work at home while you are temporarily living out of Morwell. Talk to your child's teacher or principal about how to organise this.

If you also have pre-school aged children and want information on how to access childcare and kindergarten services when you temporarily move out of Morwell, please register your details by calling the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on 03 9589 6266. The Department will assist with relevant information as soon as possible.

Assistance is available from the Department of Human Services for those who need it. People wanting help or advice can ring 1800 006 468 to discuss their needs.

The community assessment centre is also open from 8am to 8pm.

