

Update

Corona Virus Third Wave

According to reports, the third wave of COVID-19 infections in the Western Cape is nearing its peak. In June 2021 there were 148 staff members tested positive for the virus, with 314 active cases amongst learners. Apart from some schools that needed to be temporarily closed for sanitisation, there have been no reports of new active cases reported from the 8 districts.

Vaccination

The WCED in co-operation with the Department of Health, is busy with a campaign to promote and encourage employees to be vaccinated. Circulars explaining the process to be followed to be vaccinated, as well as how time away from the classroom to obtain the vaccination will be handled, have been issued to all principals, staff and School Governing Body's at schools. The PSA encourages the vaccination of members in order to curb the spread of the virus, but also respect for individuals who wish not to be vaccinated.

Communication

The WCED continuously communicates with learners and staff to adhere to Covid-19 protocols. However, the reduction of the social distancing regulations from 1.5m to 1m has not resulted in having more learners in a classroom, with younger learners still finding it difficult to keep the required distance from one another when playing.

Vandalising of schools

Minister Debbie Schafer indicated in her statement, dated 1 August 2021, that 38 Western Cape schools reported incidents of vandalism over the July School Holidays. Even where nothing was stolen, attempts by criminals to gain access to school properties caused damage to the infrastructure.

The PSA wishes to express its sincere condolences to all members and their families who have been impacted by the pandemic.

GENERAL MANAGER