

HIGHVIEW COLLEGE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Person Responsible – Director of Pastoral Care



BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Rationale

To ensure we comply with State Government Ministerial Orders and VRQA Guidelines and follow their direction in relation to school closure on 'Code Red' Days and Bushfire Preparedness.

To ensure we have effective Bushfire Preparedness processes in place to provide for the care, safety and welfare of staff and students.

Aims

- To assist in ensuring the safety of our students or staff by avoiding any unnecessary or foreseeable risk situation.
- To ensure appropriate action in both 'Code Red' and Total Fire Ban situations.
- To establish a smooth process in notifying parents/guardians and staff of a Code Red Closure or other details.
- To ensure we establish and maintain a Bushfire At-Risk Register.
- To ensure school infrastructure is bushfire prepared and meets legal standards and complies with health and safety requirements.

CODE RED & TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

Highview College is situated in the North Central Fire district.

Buses will not run on Code Red Days.

Once the decision is confirmed it will not change (even if the weather changes).

No staff or students are permitted on site on Code Red Days.

PROPOSED 'CODE RED' DAY

(up to 4 days prior to the closure is the expectation)

- A letter is sent home with students for parents/guardians when the College is informed of this possibility.
- Parents/guardians are informed of the possible closure of the college.
- Proposed Code Red Day Letter – Appendix A

CONFIRMED 'CODE RED' DAY

When a 'Code Red' day is confirmed the school will be notified no later than 1.00pm the day prior.

- Parents/guardians are informed that the College will be closed the following day.

- Confirmed Code Red Day Letter – Appendix B (if the closure is on a Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday or Friday).
- By SMS to all parents/guardians and staff in addition to the letter. The Confirmed Code Red Day Communications – Appendix C
- Note: if the closure occurs on a Monday, being confirmed Sunday only SMS can be used.
- Cancellation of off-site activities (camps/ field trips/ sporting activities). Letter to relevant parents/guardians. Appendix D Cancellation of off-site activities letter
- Note: Off-site camps and excursion locations are checked with the Department of Education websites as part of the risk assessment (see Co-Curricular policy)

Other action:

- Signs will be put on the college office door and other entrance doors notifying of the closure – Appendix C The Confirmed Code Red Day Communications
- Signs will be put on the staff community notice board notifying of the closure
- The answering machine message will confirm the closure – Appendix C The Confirmed Code Red Day Communications
- Process and staff member responsible for action in relation to Code Red Days – Appendix E Staff Responsibilities on Code Red Days

Resources

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development: DEECD

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx

IN THE EVENT OF BUSHFIRE OR ELEVATED RISK ON NON-CODE RED DAYS

Implementation

Highview College will:

- Maintain a heightened state of readiness.
- Ensure open lines of communication from local emergency services.
- Be prepared/on standby to enact our EMP (Emergency Management Plan) by relocating students and staff to the nominated 'shelter-in-place'. Highview College's 'shelter in place' is the hall and auditorium.
- Respond appropriately to instructions from emergency services.
- Practise evacuation drills at least once a term during the October-April bushfire season (ie. Once in Term 1 & once in Term 4). These evacuation drills will involve all students and staff moving to the nominated on-site 'shelter-in-place'.

BUSHFIRE REFUGE IN SHELTER-IN-PLACE BUILDING

Implementation

Highview College will:

- Review CFA websites and other media sources on Severe and Extreme fire danger days for notification of fires in the area.
- For a fire in the immediate vicinity of the College the following triggers would initiate a move to the “safer building”:
 - CFA information and warning messages on DET website and ABC radio 774 indicate a fire is moving toward Maryborough and is less than an hour away from impact.
 - The local emergency services advise that a bushfire is likely to impact on the site.
 - The College is advised that a bushfire is burning in any of the surrounding areas and is less than an hour away.
 - There is a confirmed sighting of nearby smoke or flames.

BUSHFIRE AT-RISK REGISTER

Implementation

Highview College will:

- Highview College will maintain a register, updated in Terms 1 & 4 each year.
- Maintain an updated register of bushfire emergency equipment, in working order, which may include water supplies and equipment, fire hydrants, hose reels and extinguishers, sprinkler systems, alarms, first aid materials and medical equipment, fire blankets and communication systems. Highview College will update this register in Terms 1 & 4 each year. Person responsible is the Business Manager.
- Maintain notices of bushfire evacuation procedures and updated bushfire emergency contact numbers, appropriately located around the school. (Person responsible: Director of Operations).

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Implementation

Highview College will:

- Regularly schedule the monitoring and removal of materials that may be easily ignited including branches overhanging buildings, debris and rubbish around and under buildings, including gutters and dry grass and vegetation (person responsible: Maintenance).
- Ensure the safe storage of flammable materials. Staff responsible:
 - Head of Science
 - Head of Art
 - Head of Technology
 - Property Manager.
- Ensure building exits are continuously kept clear of obstructions. Staff responsible:
 - All teachers
 - Property Manager
- Make certain that assembly points are designated and have appropriate access to emergency equipment. Staff responsible:
 - Property Manager

- Business Manager).
- Provide access to facilities and grounds for emergency vehicles. Staff responsible:
 - Property Manager
 - Business Manager
- Consult local agencies, where relevant, (the Country Fire Authority, local Council) on their bushfire preparedness and compliance with local bushfire regulation of buildings, facilities and grounds and keep a record of the annual visitation (to occur in October each year) or in consultation with relevant local agencies. Staff responsible:
 - Business Manager
 - Principal
- Obtain documentation from the relevant agency certifying that any on-site 'shelter-in-place' is compliant with relevant agency minimum standards. Staff responsible:
 - Business Manager
 - Principal

SHELTER IN PLACE

As per VRQA guidelines a Shelter-in-place refers to sheltering inside a building, or in some cases group of buildings, selected as the most suitably sized, situated and constructed on the site to withstand the predicted ember and smoke attack from a fire or other outdoor hazardous incident. It is for students and staff to retreat to in the event they are caught on-site and unable to evacuate when a fire front approaches. The shelter-in-place is to be used as a last resort.

The operation and construction of a shelter-in-place could involve closing all doors and windows and turning off ventilation systems, provision of first aid, water, amenities and communications as well as building upgrades such as ember and smoke sealing and maintenance of an asset protection zone, zone incorporating tree removal, pruning and landscaping.

Shelter-in-place buildings only offer a temporary protective measure during an outdoor hazardous incident however, for the short term, it can provide substantial protection.

LOCKDOWN

Rationale

To ensure that students, staff and visitors are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school that requires students, staff and visitors to be locked within buildings for their own safekeeping.

Aims

- To ensure appropriate action is taken when a 'Lockdown' of the school is required.
- To establish a smooth process for notifying parents after a Lockdown.
- To establish an effective process for notifying the appropriate authorities during and after a Lockdown.

Implementation

A LOCKDOWN will occur when an emergency situation produces circumstances that are dangerous for students and/or staff and/or visitors to move safely within the school grounds. This may involve a hostage situation or the presence of a dangerous person in the school grounds. A copy of instructions regarding a Lockdown will be placed by the exit door of every room.

A Lockdown is triggered at the Front Office. If possible the Business Manager or Principal will authorise the Lockdown but any member of the staff can make a decision to commence a Lockdown. To commence a Lockdown any member of staff should ring 100 or 101 when their personal safety will permit.

The alarm for a Lockdown is the repeat of the word 'LOCKDOWN'. If personal safety permits, the Front Office will contact the police.

If it is not possible to notify the school of a Lockdown because the incident is near or inside the Front Office any staff member can initiate a Lock Down by dialling **589** on any internal school phone and **repeating the word 'LOCKDOWN'**.

A Lockdown drill will occur at least once per year.

Instructions

The Alarm

A repeat of the words 'LOCKDOWN'.

If inside, the teacher and the class remain inside the room they are in (there are exceptions to this – see **Note** below).

1. Group closely together and sit on the floor out of sight, under the windows. Take books with you.
2. Remain calm and be absolutely quiet and still.
3. The teacher will close and lock all doors and windows, close curtains and blinds and turn off all lights and electrical appliances. If the door cannot be locked it should be barricaded.
4. Wait for instructions via the PA/Internal phone system. DO NOT try to contact the Office, they will contact you.
5. Do not peer out any doors or windows.
6. Do not leave the room until the Lockdown alarm ceases. When this occurs there will be an announcement instructing what to do next and if it is safe to go outside.

Exceptions to Note:

Room 34 – if possible, move quickly across the corridor to Room 20

Room 33 – if possible, move quickly to Room 32

Room 11 – move to Science room across the hall

If outside, during class time.

- A class that is outside should move to the nearest lockable room and follow the above instructions.

- A student not with a class should move to the nearest room that the student knows will be staffed. Students need to knock firmly and state their name if the room is locked and they know it is occupied.

If outside, during non-class time (recess or lunch)

- Yard duty teachers will move to the following rooms: Area 1 to M1; Area 2 to Rooms 1, 2 and 3; Area 3 to the Tech building Kitchens; Area 5 to the Room 25. The Library and the Mud Brick building will also be available.
- Move quickly and calmly by the shortest route to the closest room (from those listed above) and follow the procedures as above.

If the alarm sounds immediately after a lesson

- stay where you are and follow instructions as for Point 1 (If Inside) above.

At the completion of a Lockdown the following will occur:

- A review of the Emergency Management Plan.
- Contact St Augustine's to inform them of the Lockdown.
- Contact the Maryborough police to inform them of the Lockdown.
- SMS parents informing them of what occurred.
- Roll check of all students and staff and visitors.

EVACUATION

Rationale

To ensure that students, staff and visitors are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school that requires students, staff and visitors to be evacuated from buildings for their own safekeeping.

Aims

- To ensure appropriate action is taken when an evacuation of the school buildings is required.
- To establish a smooth process for notifying parents after an evacuation.
- To establish an effective process for notifying the appropriate authorities during and after an evacuation.

Implementation

AN EVACUATION will occur when an emergency situation produces circumstances that are dangerous for students and/or staff and/or visitors to remain within the school buildings. This may involve a bomb/fire threat or the presence of a dangerous gas/chemicals in buildings. A copy of instructions regarding an Evacuation will be placed by the exit door of every room. (Refer to Appendix F for Role of Staff Members during Evacuation.)

An evacuation is triggered at the Front Office. If possible the Business Manager or Principal will authorise the Evacuation but any member of the staff can make a decision to commence an Evacuation. To commence an Evacuation any member of staff should ring 100 or 101.

An alarm will be sounded through the PA/Internal phone system with a series of short tones, with the words "Emergency. Evacuate now. Follow your teacher's instructions."

If personal safety permits, the Front Office will contact the police.

Instructions

If inside,

1. Stay calm.
2. Close windows and doors (don't lock) as directed by your teacher.
3. Leave calmly, as directed by the teacher. Go via the nearest safe exit and keep the noise level down.
4. Move to the far end of the lower basketball court (Evacuation Area) by the safest possible route.

If outside,

1. Move quickly and calmly to the far end of the lower basketball court (Evacuation Area) by the safest possible route.

When in the evacuation area,

1. Sit in Home Groups in a single line in the area designated for your Home Group.
2. Stay in your Home Group with your Home Group teacher until directed to move by the Evacuation Co-ordinator.

Accounting for staff and students:

Responsibilities:

- Office staff bring student rolls, sign in/out sheets, Evacuation folder containing staff roll, timetable master, etc. to Evacuation Area.
- Director of Administration marks staff roll.
- Upon completion of marking student rolls, home room teachers hold up a red or green card to indicate if all students are present. The Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care) takes responsibility to locate any students that are not accounted for.

At the completion of an Evacuation the following will occur:

- A review of the Emergency Management Plan.
- Contact the Maryborough police to inform them of the Evacuation (if not already done).
- SMS parents informing them of what occurred.

Updated by Stuart Glascott – 2015

Updated by Marion Martin – 2016

APPENDIX A PROPOSED CODE RED DAY LETTER

[Insert date]

Dear Parent/Carer,

POTENTIAL CODE RED DAY SCHOOL CLOSURE

I am writing to advise you that our school Highview College may be closed on [insert date/s] due to a potential Code Red fire danger rating forecast for our area.

The decision to close will be confirmed by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day prior to the closure. Once we have received confirmation of the closure we will contact you directly via SMS message before the end of the school day. You are urged to check the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website for updates – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Please note that all school bus routes will also be closed; services will resume when the school re-opens.

I realise that the potential closure of our school may result in you having to make alternative arrangements for your child, but the safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Given the predicted weather conditions, we urge that your child is not left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

If you know of other parents who, for any reason, may not be aware of the school's potential closure, please contact them to help ensure they are aware that the school may be closed on [insert date].

You should also explain to your child and family members that our school may be closed. For safety reasons, no staff will be on-site if the school is closed.

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Melinda Scash

PRINCIPAL

APPENDIX B CONFIRMED CODE RED DAY LETTER

[Insert date]

Dear Parent/Carer,

CONFIRMED CODE RED DAY SCHOOL CLOSURE

I am writing to advise you that our school Highview College **will be closed** [tomorrow or insert date/s] due to a Code Red fire danger rating day being determined for our area. This is consistent with Victorian Government policy that leaving early on a Code Red day is the safest option.

The school is expected to re-open on [insert date], when conditions are predicted to improve. However, if another Code Red day is determined for the following day the school will remain closed. Updates on school closures can be found at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Please note that all school bus routes will also be closed; services will resume when the school re-opens.

I realise that closing the school may result in you having to make alternative arrangements for your child, but the safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Given the predicted weather conditions, we urge that your child is not left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

We are taking all possible steps to ensure our school community is aware of the school's closure, including displaying posters advising of the closure at our school entrances and sending an SMS to all parents. If, however, you know of other parents who, for any reason, may not be aware of the school's closure, please contact them to help ensure they are aware that the school will be closed on [insert date].

You should also explain to your child and family members that the school will be closed. For safety reasons, no staff will be on-site while the school is closed.

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Melinda Scash
PRINCIPAL

APPENDIX C THE CONFIRMED CODE RED DAY COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone Script:

Thank you for calling Highview College.

Our school is currently closed due to a forecast Code Red fire danger rating day.

No staff or students remain on-site.

For confirmation of closure please visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website at

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx

SMS Message:

eg. [Insert date eg. Tuesday 24th February] is a CODE RED DAY. Highview College will be CLOSED.

We will be closed

on

.....
due to a **Code Red**
day being determined

For more information visit
www.education.vic.gov.au
or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on

1800 240 667



We are closed

on

.....
due to a **Code Red**
day being determined

For more information visit
www.education.vic.gov.au
or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on

1800 240 667



APPENDIX D CANCELLATION OF OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES LETTER

[Insert date]

Dear Parent/Carer,

CANCELLATION – camp/field trip/excursion/sporting activity

I am writing to advise that your child's [camp/field trip/sporting activity] scheduled for [insert date] has been cancelled due to a Code Red fire danger rating day being determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the [camp/field trip/sporting activity] has been planned.

Your child will continue with their normal school routine [and we will investigate opportunities to reschedule the camp/field trip/sporting activity at another time of the year].

While the cancellation of this event may disappoint your child, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority.

For more information on schools and bushfire preparedness, visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/emergencies.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Melinda Scash
PRINCIPAL

APPENDIX E RESPONSIBILITIES ON CODE RED DAYS

Action	Responsibility of Staff Member
Proposed Code Red Day Letter (up to 4 days prior to expected closure). To be given to students during Period 6.	Kylie Moore (back up person Kay Murray)
Confirmed Code Red Day Letter (the day prior to closure) To be given to students during Period 6.	Kylie Moore (back up person Kay Murray)
SMS notification of closure to be sent to all staff and parents.	Daniel Smith (back up person Simon Hatcher)
Signs to be put on College office door and other entrance doors notifying of the closure.	Vicki Fraser (back up person Kay Murray)
Signs will be put on the staff community notice board notifying of the closure.	Vicki Fraser (back up person Kay Murray)

The answering machine message will confirm the closure of the school tomorrow.

Vicki Fraser
(back up person Kay Murray)

Location of Policy and Door Signs = Sick Bay Cupboard

APPENDIX F STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES ON CODE RED DAYS

Role of Staff Members during Evacuation:

Deputy Principal-Pastoral Care / Evacuation Officer

- Wears Evacuation Officer vest (red/orange).
- Oversees Evacuation.
- Designates jobs for staff, if needed.

Director of Administration (assisted by Timetabler and Accounts Officer)

- Marks staff attendance roll and account for any missing staff.

Classroom Teachers (plus Learning Support Aides)

- Calmly evacuate their students from the class room to the Evacuation area by:
- Ensuring students remain calm
- Leaving classroom together in an orderly fashion (Leave books/belongings in room and don't lock door).
- Moving to the far end of the lower basketball court (Evacuation Area) by the safest possible route.
- Lining students up in designated Home Group area (and handing over Home Group to Home Group teacher).
- If you are a Home Group teacher, join your Home Group and mark the student roll. If you are not a Home Group teacher, report to the Director of Curriculum to get your name marked off the staff attendance roll, and then wait for possible further instructions/duties.

Home Group Teachers

- Home Group teachers will be given their rolls to mark. **Hold up a red card if you have student missing OR a green card if all students are accounted for.** (The Student Services Officer will then sort out if your missing students are absent or unaccounted for).
- Home Groups stay quietly where they are and wait for further instructions from the Deputy Principal–Pastoral Care / Evacuation Officer.

Business Manager

- Waits out the front of the school to deal with emergency services, visitors, parents, etc.

Receptionist

- Upon direction, the Receptionist sounds appropriate alarm through the PA system.
- Receptionist collects the following:
 - Daily printed attendance roll
 - Home Group roll covers
 - Phone/notes 'clipboard'
 - Couple of pens
 - Sign in/out sheets (students, staff & visitors)

Student Services officer

- First Aid co-ordinator collects the following and establishes a First Aid area in the upper end of the Evacuation area:
 - Medical form folders
 - First aid kit, including spare EpiPen, asthma inhaler & diabetes kit
 - First Aid and Attendance Manager yellow vests
 - Hand-held megaphone
 - School mobile
 - Any students currently in sick bay (keep students in First Aid area and inform Student Attendance Manager of the names of these students)

Registrar & Principal's PA

Back-up for Receptionist and Student Services officer.

All Pastoral Care Co-ordinators

Pastoral Care Co-ordinators return Home Group rolls to Attendance Manager, and help solve any student attendance discrepancies.

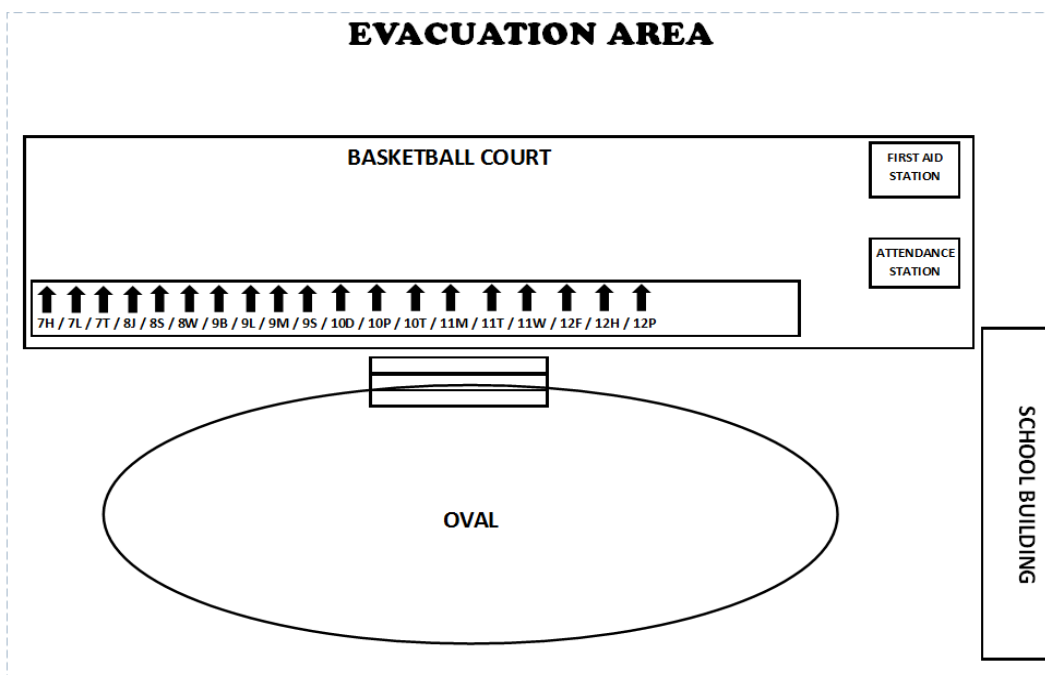
Principal

Liaise with staff, students, public, parents, media, etc. as required.

All other staff, including Cleaners, Maintenance, Technicians, CRTs, and Counsellors

- proceed to the Evacuation Area and report to the Director of Curriculum who will mark your name off on the roll.
- Wait in designated area for further instructions.

All staff must ensure that their names have been checked off the Staff attendance roll.



APPENDIX G

ROLE OF STAFF MEMBERS DURING SHELTER-IN-PLACE:

Principal

- Reviews CFA websites and other media sources on Severe and Extreme fire danger days for notification of fires in the area
- Makes the decision to take refuge in the shelter-in-place building
- Liaises with staff, students, public, parents, media, etc. as required.

Deputy Principal-Pastoral Care / Evacuation Officer

- Wears Evacuation Officer vest (red/orange).
- Oversees evacuation to shelter-in-place.
- Designates jobs for staff, including ensuring that all doors and windows to the refuge are closed.

Director of Administration (assisted by Timetabler and Accounts Officer)

- Marks staff attendance roll and accounts for any missing staff.

Classroom Teachers (plus Learning Support Aides)

- Calmly evacuate their students from the class room to the shelter-in-place building by:
- Ensuring students remain calm
- Leaving classroom together in an orderly fashion (Leave books/belongings in room and don't lock door).
- Moving to the shelter-in-place building by the safest possible route.
- Lining students up in designated area and handing over Home Group to Home Group teacher. (See Appendix H Map of theatre/hall)
- If you are a Home Group teacher, join your Home Group and mark the student roll. If you are not a Home Group teacher, report to the Director of Curriculum to get your name marked off the staff attendance roll, and then wait for possible further instructions/duties.

Home Group Teachers

- Home Group teachers will be given their rolls to mark. **Hold up a red card if you have student missing OR a green card if all students are accounted for.** (The Student Attendance Manager will then sort out if your missing students are absent or unaccounted for)
- Home Groups stay quietly where they are and wait for further instructions from the Deputy Principal–Pastoral Care / Evacuation Officer.

Business Manager

- Waits out the front of the school to deal with emergency services, visitors, parents, etc.

Receptionist

Upon direction, Receptionist sounds appropriate alarm through the PA system.

Receptionist collects the following:

- Daily printed attendance roll
- Home Group roll covers
- Phone/notes 'clipboard'
- Couple of pens
- Sign in/out sheets (students, staff & visitors)

Student Service officer

First Aid co-ordinator collects the following and establishes a First Aid area in the foyer of the theatre:

- Medical form folders
- First aid kit, including spare Epipen, asthma inhaler & diabetes kit
- First Aid and Attendance Manager yellow vests
- Hand-held megaphone
- School mobile
- Any students currently in sick bay (keep students in First Aid area and inform Student Attendance Manager of the names of these students)

Registrar & Principal's PA

Back-up Receptionist and Student Services Officer

All Pastoral Care Co-ordinators

Pastoral Care Co-ordinators return Home Group rolls to Attendance Manager, and help solve any student attendance discrepancies.

All other staff, including Cleaners, Maintenance, Technicians, CRTs, and Counsellor

- proceed to the shelter-in-place building
- report to the Director of Administration who will mark your name off on the roll
- Wait in designated area for further instructions.

All staff must ensure that their names have been checked off the Staff attendance roll.