

Covid-19 Update – Self Isolating or Caring for someone who does

The SDA understands this is a distressing time, especially for retail staff in supermarkets & pharmacies. The situation is ongoing and changes rapidly and the SDA is doing its best to ensure that your health and safety at work and home is the number one priority.

What should you do if you feel sick or need to self isolate?

Be proactive about looking after your health. If you are sick, do not attend work.

If you believe you may have contracted coronavirus, seek professional medical advice (initially by telephone) and inform management. The National Coronavirus Hotline is **1800 020 080**.

What should you do if you have travelled overseas?

The Australian Government has issued a 14-day self isolation period for anyone entering Australia starting Sunday 15 March 2020.

If you are currently overseas, you will need to do this. Seek advice via the National Coronavirus Hotline on **1800 020 080**. You should inform your employer as soon as possible and confirm the process in place at your store.

Leave from work for workers who have to self isolate

The SDA calls for all employers to provide all employees, whether full-time, part-time or casual, with access to special paid leave in the event of needing to self-isolate or care for family members who are self-isolating (e.g. school closures etc). This is not just a workplace issue it is an issue of public health and safety.

No one should have to choose between a pay cheque to feed their family or endangering fellow workers and members of the community.

Show your support for this by signing our petition [here](#).

The SDA welcomes the steps taken already by many retailers showing leadership to provide access to special paid leave for permanents if they run out of personal/sick leave and for casuals not normally entitled to paid leave, this includes Woolworths, Big W, Dan Murphy's, BWS, Target, Kmart, and Officeworks.



This means permanent workers in Woolworths, Big W, Dan Murphy's, BWS, Target and Kmart who have to self isolate, or care for a family member who is self isolating use their current personal leave entitlements and then have access to the safety net of a further two weeks additional paid leave should they require it.

These companies and Officeworks will also pay casual staff for the hours they would have worked if they have to self isolate or care for a family member who is self isolating for 2 weeks.

Check with the SDA to see what applies to you.

Leave from work to look after an immediate family member due to school or day care closure

The additional leave mentioned above will also be accessible in those retailers should you be required to look after an immediate family member or a member of your household who has been directed by a medical professional or a relevant government health authority to self-isolate, be quarantined due to COVID-19 or meets the criteria to self isolate.

This would include having to look after your children should schools and or day care centres be closed due to measures taken the government to slow the spread of COVID-19.

All employees should have access to this leave to protect their income and to protect the community. We are very disappointed in some major retailers, including Coles Supermarkets, who have not yet provided this additional leave! We call on and continue to press them to provide this additional leave to their employees.