

AusAlert™ and the national test

Monday 27 July 2026

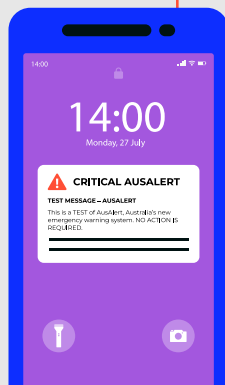
Information for parents, guardians, carers and teachers

The Australian Government is launching AusAlert – a new national warning system that uses the latest technology to send emergency messages to compatible mobile devices.



AusAlert is a fast and reliable way to help communities be informed and better prepared during local and national emergencies such as bushfires, severe weather and public health emergencies.

It will be ready to use in October 2026, but before it launches, the system needs to be tested across Australia. **This is called the AusAlert national test.**



The AusAlert national test is happening during school hours in all states and territories. Young people may receive it on their phones, tablets, smart watches and children's safety watches.

Parents, guardians, carers and teachers should read this information to help children and teens understand what AusAlert is and what they need to do if they receive the AusAlert national test.

When is the AusAlert national test?

On **Monday 27 July 2026**, an AusAlert test message will be sent to all compatible mobile devices in Australia, at around:

- **2:00 pm AEST** – Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania
- **1:30 pm ACST** – Northern Territory, South Australia, Broken Hill (NSW)
- **12:00 pm AWST** – Western Australia.

Young people in all states and territories may receive the AusAlert national test at school if they have a compatible device.

What will the AusAlert national test sound like?

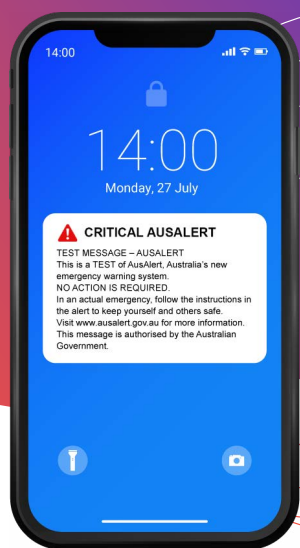
If devices are turned on, the AusAlert national test will:

- **make them vibrate**
- **play a loud siren-like sound for 10 seconds.**

This will happen even if a device is on silent or do not disturb.

What will the AusAlert national test look like?

Depending on your device type and operating system, an AusAlert test message will look something like this:



How can we support young people?

Some young people may feel worried or confused about receiving the AusAlert national test and may need extra support from an adult.

This can include children and teens:

- with learning difficulties or sensory needs
- who are still learning to read and understand written information
- who are not with a parent or responsible adult when they receive a message.

Parents, guardians, carers and teachers can help by explaining what an AusAlert is before the national test and letting them know that alerts help keep people safe.

Reassure them that the AusAlert national test is just a test and they don't need to be worried or do anything.

Prepare your child for the AusAlert national test by:

- visiting [ausalert.gov.au](https://www.ausalert.gov.au)
- listening to the AusAlert sound
- watching the AusAlert animated video
- reading more about how AusAlert works.

What can young people expect on the day of the national test?

The AusAlert national test will happen during school hours. It may interrupt lessons or make some children feel worried or upset.

To reduce disruption, teachers may remind students to follow school phone rules before the test.

This may include asking students to:

- **turn off their devices or switch them to aeroplane mode**
- **safely store devices in their bags or lockers.**

During the AusAlert national test, students should follow the instructions of their school and teachers.

Will schools receive more information about the national test?

Schools across Australia will receive information about the AusAlert national test.

Schools are encouraged to talk to students before the test and share information about AusAlert with their school communities.

How can young people prepare if they receive a real AusAlert at school?

Reassure them that if they receive a real AusAlert, it doesn't always mean they are in immediate danger. Let them know their teachers understand AusAlert.

If they receive a real AusAlert on their device at school, to stay safe they should:

- stay calm
- read the message carefully
- ask a teacher or adult for help
- close the notification
- follow the instructions of their teachers or school staff.

How else can young people stay informed in an emergency?

AusAlert is just one way to get information in an emergency.

Families and schools should use other trusted sources, such as:

- school or community evacuation plans
- local or national TV or radio
- emergency services apps and websites.