

## Copy of Email sent to parents on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Parents I have included in this email some key information in relation to the Coronavirus. Please support us by ensuring that you and your family follow the guidelines provided and put in place the preventative measures outlined below. My school staff are also strictly following the recommendations and additional teaching time is being allocated to educating children in regard to the need to wash hands, to not touch their face and to respond appropriately when sneezing or coughing. We ask you to reinforce this at home and please do not send children to school if they display the symptoms of Coronavirus, or have had contact with anyone who is being tested or is a confirmed case of Coronavirus. Please inform me should your child be home for any of these reasons. I also ask that you communicate with me directly should your family be planning any overseas travel so we can ensure we follow the appropriate guidelines on your return.

Any questions please refer to the Health Department website.

[https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus)

Thank you for your support in this very important matter.

Kind regards

Jayne Ebsworthy

Principal

## Attendance at school

### Who cannot attend school

Students or staff cannot attend school and need to self-quarantine if they have:

- a) left or transited through **mainland China** in the last 14 days, they must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of leaving mainland China;
- b) left or transited through **Iran** on or after 1 March, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after leaving Iran;
- c) left or transited through the **Republic of Korea**, on or after 5 March, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after leaving the Republic of Korea;
- d) left or transited through **Italy** in the last 14 days, they must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of leaving **Italy**; This is new advice!
- e) been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

**Students or staff who have been tested for COVID-19 should follow the advice of the Department of Health and stay away from school whilst awaiting results.**

The above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

#### Who can attend school

Students or staff who have travelled to or transited through other countries (excluding China, Iran, Republic of Korea and Italy) can attend school. If students or staff display symptoms (see information below) they should not attend school and seek medical advice.

All returned travellers who have travelled in or transited through “higher risk” countries or a country considered to pose a “moderate risk” of transmission in the last 14 days should self-monitor for symptoms and immediately isolate themselves if they become unwell.

Higher Risk	Moderate Risk
<b><i>Must isolate for 14 days prior to attending</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mainland China</li><li>• Iran</li><li>• Republic of Korea</li><li>• Italy</li></ul>	<b><i>Can attend school, but self-monitor</i></b> All other countries

The most up to date list can be accessed at:

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-covid-19-countries.htm>

#### COVID-19 symptoms

Most people infected with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and recover. However, some go on to experience more serious illness and may require hospital care. Risk of serious illness rises with age: people over 40 seem to be more vulnerable than those under 40. People with weakened immune systems and people with conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease are also more vulnerable to serious illness.

People with COVID-19 may experience:

- fever;
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue; or
- shortness of breath.

#### How can I protect myself and others against COVID-19?

- Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel
- Refraining from touching mouth and nose
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow.
- Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene and
- Avoiding close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).

## **How is COVID-19 spread?**

COVID-19 is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious;
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes; or
- touching objects or surfaces (such as door handles or tables) contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

Most infections are only transmitted by people when they have symptoms. These can include fever, a cough, sore throat, tiredness and shortness of breath.