



The following information update is provided to parents/carers from the College regarding COVID-19.

This information was last updated and is current as at Friday 20 March. Additional updates will be provided as required and when information changes.

While the Department of Health advises that the risk of transmission in Western Australia remains low; they are monitoring the situation and we are acting on their advice to take any precautions for schools and our staff. The current focus is on minimising and preventing transmission and making sure that our school system is prepared for a possible case.

Additional information can be obtained from the Department of Health website:

www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus

Attendance at school

School events/activities and programs

Currently under the direction of the Department of Education the College continues to operate normal classes and educational programs. Non-essential excursions, activities, events and programs have been cancelled and or postponed in response to the coronavirus situation.

As directed by the Department, no meetings/activities/classes or events with more than 100 staff and students are being conducted inside and no close gatherings over 500 outside are occurring.

On Friday, 20 March the Australian Government announced further measures relating to gatherings of fewer than 100 people in an enclosed space. The Government is now recommending four square metres per person. This does **not** apply to schools.

The College is making preparations for continuity of subject work for students in the event of a significant disruption to student learning. To support schools, the Department is also preparing curriculum resources which will be available on a public website as of Monday 23 March. This will be available for both staff and parents to use.

The Department has directed that students whose parents have chosen to keep them home, without seeking medical advice, may not be provided individual curriculum work and activities. The priority for staff is to maintain focus on classroom learning programs.

Currently, to the best of our knowledge no staff member or student has the coronavirus. *If* this occurs the Department of Education has a process in place to

immediately deal with and support school communities in the management of the situation. **Please refer to more detailed information below regarding this.**

As is the normal practice, parents/carers are reminded that if your child is unwell, it is recommended that they remain at home. **This is not a new practice**, and follows well established practice that has been in place for many years.

If parents/carers keep their child/children at home due to the current coronavirus situation please inform the College so we can mark their attendance records accordingly.

If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in your family, parents/carers are asked to immediately inform the College and not send your child/children to school.

While the situation regarding the COVID-19 continues to evolve, the Department of Education sector has established plans and a team to support principals and schools. It is important that as a school community we apply common sense, factual information and a practical approach to COVID – 19.

If a WA school has to close due to a confirmed case, it will be on advice from the WA Health Department's Chief Health Officer. The Chief Health Officer will, if there has been a positive COVID-19 test result in our school, close our school temporarily while assessment and tracing of exposure is conducted. A thorough school clean will then be carried out to make the school safe for the return of students and staff.

In this situation the principal will receive direct advice and support regarding the closure process and communication materials from the Department of Education's Coronavirus support team.

Upon the school being notified, all families will be immediately contacted and provided with the relevant information. This contact may be during the school day, or before or after school. It is therefore important that we have up-to-date contact details for your children, please notify the front office if these have changed.

Parents will also be advised of the extent to which class work can be completed at home during this temporary closure and provided with the details of how this will work.

While it is acknowledged that this may be a stressful time for the community, parents are reminded that schools open and close all of the time and that the reason for any school closure will be to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

How to minimise the spread of 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
- Avoiding close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).

Who cannot attend school – information as of 20 March 2020

Students cannot attend school and need to self-isolate if they have:

- a) returned from overseas travel, they must self-isolate for 14 days from the

- date of return to Australia;
- b) been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case and they must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case;
 - c) been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results should follow the advice of the Department of Health and stay away from school.

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

Parents/carers should notify their school if the student will be away for the isolation period and confirm the date in which they were last overseas, or have been advised by the Department of Health to isolate.

COVID-19 symptoms

People with COVID-19 may experience:

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

For the latest health information and health related enquiries please visit [WA Department of Health](#) or access the helpline 1800 020 080.