

LOCKRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ROSHER ROAD, LOCKRIDGE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6054

Tel: 9377 1110 Fax: 9378 3433 Email: Lockridge.PS@education.wa.edu.au



13th March 2020

Dear parents/caregivers,

As you would be well aware, there is increasing focus on how best to deal with COVID-19 (Coronavirus), around the world. At Lockridge PS, it is important that we apply a common sense, factual and practical approach to managing this situation, and share key messages to assist our families. We are being guided by advice from the Department of Education, which they are receiving daily from the Department of Health. I offer the following as the most up to date information for schools as of today, Friday 13th March.

What is COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). Symptoms include (but are not limited to) fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue and/or shortness of breath.

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.

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).

Impact on schooling

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

- 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;
- left or transited through **Iran on or after 1 March**, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after leaving Iran;
- 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;
- left or transited through **Italy in the last 14 days**, they must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of leaving Italy;
- 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.

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

Support and advice

Further information is available at www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus or the healthdirect helpline on **1800 020 080** for more information on the virus and its symptoms.

Updates will be offered as received.

Regards,

Mike Mount-Bryson
Principal