

# COVID Safe Update

- Update #2: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 -

What a great first week back we enjoyed, even with the added challenge of masks etc...A big thank you to our staff, parents/carers and wider community for adhering to the necessary mandates and guidelines in order to ensure the safe, smooth transition back to school.

Please note the updated information to follow, which includes some items that remain (as a reminder) from previous updates, some items that have been removed that are no longer applicable, and any additions/changes highlighted in **red** for easy reference.

Lockridge PS is open from the start of Term 1, with some minor changes.

## COVID-19

### Safe return to school plan

<p><b>Learning</b> Face to face teaching</p>	<p><b>Staff</b> Required to be triple dose vaccinated</p>	<p><b>Visitors</b> Show proof of vaccination when required</p>
<b>COVID-19 safe schools</b>		
<p>Masks supplies for staff and students</p>	<p>Pool of vaccinated school staff available</p>	<p>Adequate ventilation for all classrooms</p>
<p>Stay home when sick</p>	<p>Avoid unnecessary physical contact</p>	<p>Hand sanitiser supplies</p>
<p>Additional cleaning</p>	<p>Air purifiers supplied where required</p>	

## COVID-19

### School visitor information

<p><b>Proof of vaccination or exemption not required</b></p> <p>Drop-off and pick-up</p> <p>Parent/teacher interviews</p> <p>Sports carnivals</p> <p>Assemblies</p> <p>Volunteering (once a week or less)</p> <p>Delivery of goods and services</p>	<p><b>Proof of vaccination or exemption required</b></p> <p>Volunteering or working (classroom, school canteen or uniform shop) more than once a week</p> <p>Parents attending KindiLink</p> <p>Contractors</p> <p>In-class literacy and numeracy program</p> <p>Events (more than 500 people)</p> <p>Please sign in at the front office and show your proof of vaccination or exemption.</p>
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For general information about COVID and the WA Government's response, go to <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>.

#### 1. Parents and carers are welcome to enter the school grounds, classrooms and office.

Parents and carers are able to go about normal drop off and pick up without the need to show proof of vaccination. However, masks must be worn when inside classrooms, the front office and any buildings (this includes the undercover area during assemblies at this stage).

Parents, carers and visitors visiting the office may only use the front main doors. We ask that you use the sanitiser made available before entering, and abide by any further instructions of office staff. Signing in using the QR code is not required for parents/carers, or for visitors who sign-in using the regular school processes, but will be expected for delivery drivers etc...

## **2. Some parents/carers and visitors are required to be vaccinated to engage in activities and programs on the school grounds.**

For some parents/carers and visitors, vaccination and associated evidence are required. These are generally parents/carers and members of the public who play specific roles within the school or who are required to engage in programs regularly. These parents/carers or visitors include but are not limited to:

- School Council and P&C Members - roles that often require multiple official visits per week
- KindiLink parents/carers - when engaging fully in the program, including both sessions each week
- School Volunteers - with regular planned visits, more than once a week or across multiple schools
- Playgroup - when engaging fully in the program session each week and planning to engage in other school programs in the same week.
- Contractors - working across multiple schools

All individuals in these (and other) categories will be asked to show their proof of vaccination through the office, in order to continue engaging in the respective activity/program.

## **3. Communication from the school**

We will continue to utilise a range of channels of communications including these updates, newsletters, Facebook, SMS messages, the LPS website and Seesaw.

Our Seesaw app now has 122 parents/carers connected, who are able to gain an insight into their child's learning and correspond directly with teachers. If you have yet to access your child's journal, please speak with your child's teacher.

In order to ensure we can stay in contact with you, parents/carers must keep their details up to date, especially their phone numbers and email addresses. **Update forms started being sent out last week, so please send them back to the office ASAP.**

## **4. Communication to the school**

Communication is key and whilst we have plans in place to mitigate any negative impact on our students, staff and families, each context is different and will require, above all else, understanding and patience as we navigate any situations together. Most important for parents and carers is to:

- keep your contact details up-to-date with the school;
- ensure your children remain home if they display **any** signs of illness;
- remain on the school site only for the time necessary; and
- communicate with us immediately upon learning of a confirmed COVID case in your household.

## **5. Teaching, Learning and Social Distancing**

In the event of COVID directly impacting our school, the nature of curriculum delivery will be dependent on advice from the Department of Health through the Department of Education. This may include learning from home (online and/or paper based) or face-to-face teaching, from either your child's regular teacher or a relief teacher.

## 6. Some school activities will be impacted

We will be making changes to gatherings at school, based on advice received late last week from the Chief Health Officer (CHO). This is to minimise the number of students and staff impacted by the presence of a person in our school community who unknowingly may be COVID positive.

The CHO has also advised that schools should limit in-school gatherings of students and staff to class groups or small groups within a year level, in order to minimise the number of students or staff impacted by the presence of a positive case in another part of the school.

Whilst this is difficult in any school context, we will work to action this over the coming days, with changes implemented expected to have minimal impact on student learning.

At this stage, it is not necessary for us to postpone or cancel infrequent events such as interschool carnivals, camps, or school balls. However, it will cause the postponement or cancellation of other activities, including our upcoming P&C Kindy Welcome Morning Tea (11/2/22) and Family Picnic and Open Afternoon (17/2/22). We hope when advice suggests otherwise, we can reschedule these two events.

It will also impact the operations of our School Council and P&C Committee. The School Council will conduct meetings online, with the P&C also needing to adjust their activities on the school site. This will include the Uniform Shop only being open on Thursday's each week. I thank the School Council and P&C for their flexibility in the early stages of us managing these new restriction guidelines.

As previously announced, further public health measures may be stepped up in line with high caseloads in the community, which WA is not yet experiencing.

Activities that will be impacted include but are not limited to:

- Breakfast Club – *will be takeaway only, from the Baroo Undercover/Wet Area*
- Assemblies – *will be postponed until further notice*
- Excursions – *only essential excursions with curriculum links will go ahead*
- In-school activities/performances – *will be postponed where they are not outdoors and/or bring large groups/the whole school together*
- KindiLink – *see item 2*
- Playgroup – *see item 2*

## 7. Some other school activities may be impacted

Activities and events that may be impacted (in some form) include but are not limited to:

- Learning Club
- Volunteer visits
- Other school events and celebrations (context dependent)

## 8. Unwell students or those showing signs of illness

As per our normal care and consideration for people on our school site, students who are unwell are expected to remain at home. Further, if students demonstrate signs of illness, they will be transferred to the medical room and parents/carers contacted. Parents/carers are then expected to either pick-up or arrange for pick-up within 30 minutes. If parents and carers are unable to be contacted, emergency listed contacts will be phoned. This action is taken in the best interest of all in our school community.

Information about COVID symptoms can be found at:

[https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/Managing-COVID19-at-home-and-in-the-community/COVID19-symptoms-what-to-expect](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/Managing-COVID19-at-home-and-in-the-community/COVID19-symptoms-what-to-expect)

## 9. What will happen if we have a confirmed COVID case in our school

Should we have a case of COVID in our school, the Department of Health and Department of Education will direct our actions. We have a Pandemic Action Plan in place that considers our actions in preparing for, responding to and recovering from a COVID case, however, our specific response will depend on the circumstances.

Preserving the wellbeing and safety of each member of our school community will guide our decisions and actions, with parents, carers and community members playing their part by communicating with us in the event of a confirmed COVID case directly affecting their household. Whilst not every case will impact school operations, keeping us informed, as we will do you, is essential.

The Department of Education plan to ensure schools do not close, however, in the event of circumstances where COVID heavily impacts a school, the Department of Education will work with the Principal to ensure continuity of teaching and learning. Our arrangements, as outlined in the Pandemic Action Plan, will then take effect, which includes the provision of curriculum to students.

## 10. What if I am deemed a 'close contact' or 'casual contact'?

Up-to-date information and definitions around quarantine, isolation and other aspects of COVID can be found at [healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au). It includes:

Quarantine means that you must remain in your home or other accommodation for 14 days unless directed otherwise by a WA Health representative. During this period, you should not have contact with anyone else who resides in the premises.

If someone is quarantining in your home (child, partner, family member, housemate, etc...), you are not required to quarantine. WA Health requires people to take extra precautions and have no interaction with a close contact undertaking quarantine.

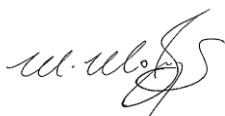
If a child can independently quarantine in a separate area of the house and does not require hands-on care, the parent/carer does not need to quarantine. However, if the child does need hands-on care then the parent/carer will also need to quarantine.

Please be aware that as the situation evolves, so too will these definitions.

## And finally...

Whilst there is still uncertainty in the community, Lockridge PS and the Department of Education are committed to ensuring continuity of learning in a COVID safe environment. Due to the ever-changing nature of this situation, we must stay positive and flexible. It is more vital than ever for parents/carers discuss the positives of the school day with their children, rather than things that appear different or issues that arise due to COVID. We will continue to provide the most up-to-date health advice as it becomes available.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Mike Mount-Bryson  
Principal