

COVID Safe Update

- Update #3: 8th February 2022 -

A big thank you to our staff, parents/carers and wider community for adhering to the necessary guidelines throughout Week 1, in order to ensure the safe, smooth transition back to school.

Whilst we appreciate there is lots of information within these updates, please note the information to follow, which includes some items that remain from previous updates (as a reminder), with additions/changes highlighted in **red** for easy reference.

For general information about COVID and the WA Government's response, go to <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

Translated advice is available at

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/covid-19-coronavirus-translated-public-health-and-social-measures-information>

Lockridge PS is open, however, there are new measures in place to keep us open

You may have seen the announcement of the high caseload settings in place across WA as of Tuesday 8 February 2022. This includes additional measures to keep our schools open and providing face-to-face learning to your children. We are currently planning and implementing strategies to minimise the risk of COVID-19 entering or being transmitted at Lockridge PS, through measures including

- changes to mask rules and parent/carer access;
- adjusted gate opening times;
- implementing flexibilities within our timetable, where practicable;
- actions to limit gatherings and mingling on the school site;
- additional measures to limit face-to-face meetings and events; and
- extra supports in place for student and staff wellbeing.

1. Parents and carers are welcome to enter the school grounds, however, they may not enter classrooms.

Parents and carers are able to go about normal drop off and pick up without the need to show proof of vaccination. However, from Tuesday 8th February, parents/carers:

- must wear a mask at all times whilst on the school site;
- are not able to enter classrooms;
- should only visit the office for essential matters; and
- are to move on and off the school site promptly, avoiding gathering in groups of any size.

Parents, carers and visitors access to the office remains only through 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...



HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

WEAR A MASK ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

At all times

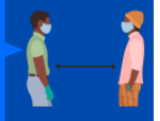


LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN AT THE DOOR

No parents/carers in classrooms

KEEP DISTANCE

Stay at least 1.5m from each other



LIMIT GATHERINGS

Promptly move on and off school grounds

Guidelines based on current health advice from the Department of Health as at 7/2/22

2. School access times will be adjusted.

Whilst the official school start and finish times will remain 8:50am - 3:00pm, gate opening times will change. The main office gate is the only one that may be used for foot traffic, with the Kwela, Kindy/Moodja and bridge gate (behind the school) remaining closed until further notice.

Mornings - The main office gates will now open from **8:30am** (instead of 8:15am), with all students (including Kindy and PP) to enter through these gates. Students and parents/carers accompanying them are to move directly to classrooms, with doors to open on the siren at 8:35am. A reminder that all Kindy & PP students are to be in the care of their adult, until they are handed over to the teacher at the classroom door.

The parent/carer carpark will remain open, however, gates will be closed by 9:00am.

Afternoons - Parent/carer foot access will only be through the main gates, which will open around **2:50pm**. If they are closed, this indicates that they have yet to be approved for opening, which will be actioned by a member of the Leadership Team.

The parent/carer carpark will also open around 2:50pm, with parents/carers asked to adhere to social distancing requirements and avoid congregating around the classroom door.

We encourage families to establish a set place, possibly closer to the gates, to meet their children, rather than directly outside the classroom.

3. Some school activities will be impacted

Based on advice received from the Chief Health Officer (CHO), we will be making changes to gatherings at school, in order 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 where possible. This too will 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.

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

- **Breakfast Club** – will be takeaway only, from the Baroo Undercover Area
- **Assemblies** – will be postponed until further notice
- **Excursions** – only essential excursions with curriculum links will go ahead, and only where student, staff and volunteer safety can be assured.
- **In-school activities/performances** – will be postponed until further notice or until safety permits
- **KindiLink** – confirmation of KindiLink resumption date is pending.
- **Playgroup** – a return of playgroup in 2022 will be delayed until parents/carers are permitted to visit classrooms and/or an agreement is reached with Playgroup WA.

4. 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)

5. Gatherings, particularly face-to-face meetings will be minimised and in most cases, prohibited.

Based on the abovementioned advice from the Chief Health Officer (CHO), engagement of parents/carers on the school site will change.

- **Parent/carer & Teacher Meetings** – These will be via telephone or online platforms only.
- **Parent/carer & Leadership Team Meetings** - These too will only be via telephone or online platforms, except in the event of extraordinary circumstances.
- **School Council** - our School Council will be conducting meetings online through WebEx.
- **P&C Committee** - our P&C will also look to move to a format that allows a large gathering to meet, off the school site. This may be at another location or via tele or web conference.
- **P&C Uniform Shop** - the Uniform Shop will be open on Thursday's each week from 8:30am – 9:00am.
- **External Agency Meetings** – these are permitted to continue at the school, as they provide essential specialist services to students. Agencies include but are not limited to: Department of Communities, Child Development Service, Speech & Occupational Therapists, Psychologists Services and counselling services. Should parents/carers also need to be involved in these meetings, in most cases, will engage via telephone or web conference.

6. 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.

7. 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. This may include learning from home (online and/or paper based) or face-to-face teaching, from either your child's teacher or a relief teacher.

Our educators continue to work hard to ensure that no matter the model of delivery, students will have access to a rich, engaging curriculum. However, they too are heavily impacted by these restrictions, as currently, they cannot engage in staff, committee, team or phase team meetings together as they usually would. Staff are also spending increased time apart, in an effort to lessen the chances of COVID transmission. This includes them having minimal access to the staffroom and other shared spaces, no breaks together in groups, affected shared planning opportunities and limited opportunities for social or wellbeing activities as a staff. Please be respectful of the lengths our staff are going to in order to keep your children and our community safe, whilst still managing the needs of the students and providing a high standard of education.

8. Most school day structures will remain the same for students, however, increased precautions will be in place

Students will still to have the same timetable, break times and classes, however, we will be instigating measures to decrease the mass gathering and mingling of students. This may include:

- Students, cohorts or groups being restricted to certain rooms/locations around the school;
- Students, cohorts or groups being restricted to certain parts of the playground;
- Students, cohorts or groups being limited in their interactions, with buddy programs being put on hold;
- Behaviour processes (e.g. Reset Class) will be restricted to building blocks wherever possible;
- Senior sport groupings will be organised in building blocks;
- Increased use of outdoor spaces as 'classrooms';
- The Kwela Wellbeing program increasing measures to keep students socially distanced; and
- Values Assemblies (and possibly other activities) being run via WebEx.

Students will continue to be supported to engage in hygiene activities before and after breaks and at the change of classes and be assisted to remember and action social distancing expectations. Cleaning of playground equipment will continue regularly.

9. 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

10. 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 123 parents/carers connected, who are able to gain an insight into their child's learning and correspond directly with teachers and the school. However, we still have over 80 students who have no parent/carer connected to their journal. If you are one of these parents/carers, please speak with your child's teacher, as clear communication is more important than ever.

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 were sent out recently, so please complete these and send them back to the office ASAP.**

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. COVID Protocols in a school setting

COVID-19 protocols for schools and childcare centres

In line with the high caseload settings announced last month, the new close contact definition and new testing and isolation protocols will take effect from tomorrow, Tuesday, 8 February

New definition of close contact with a positive case in a school or childcare setting:



Interaction for more than two hours in a small indoor space or classroom environment with an infectious person, where masks have been removed for this period

OR



Face-to-face contact for 15 minutes or more with an infectious person, where a mask was not worn by the exposed person or the person with COVID-19

OR



Someone who has been notified by WA Health that they are a close contact.

New positive COVID-19 case protocols:



Report

If PCR test unavailable, report positive RAT to WA Health



Self-isolate

Self-isolate for a minimum of 7 days



Have symptoms on Day 7

Continue isolating until symptoms clear



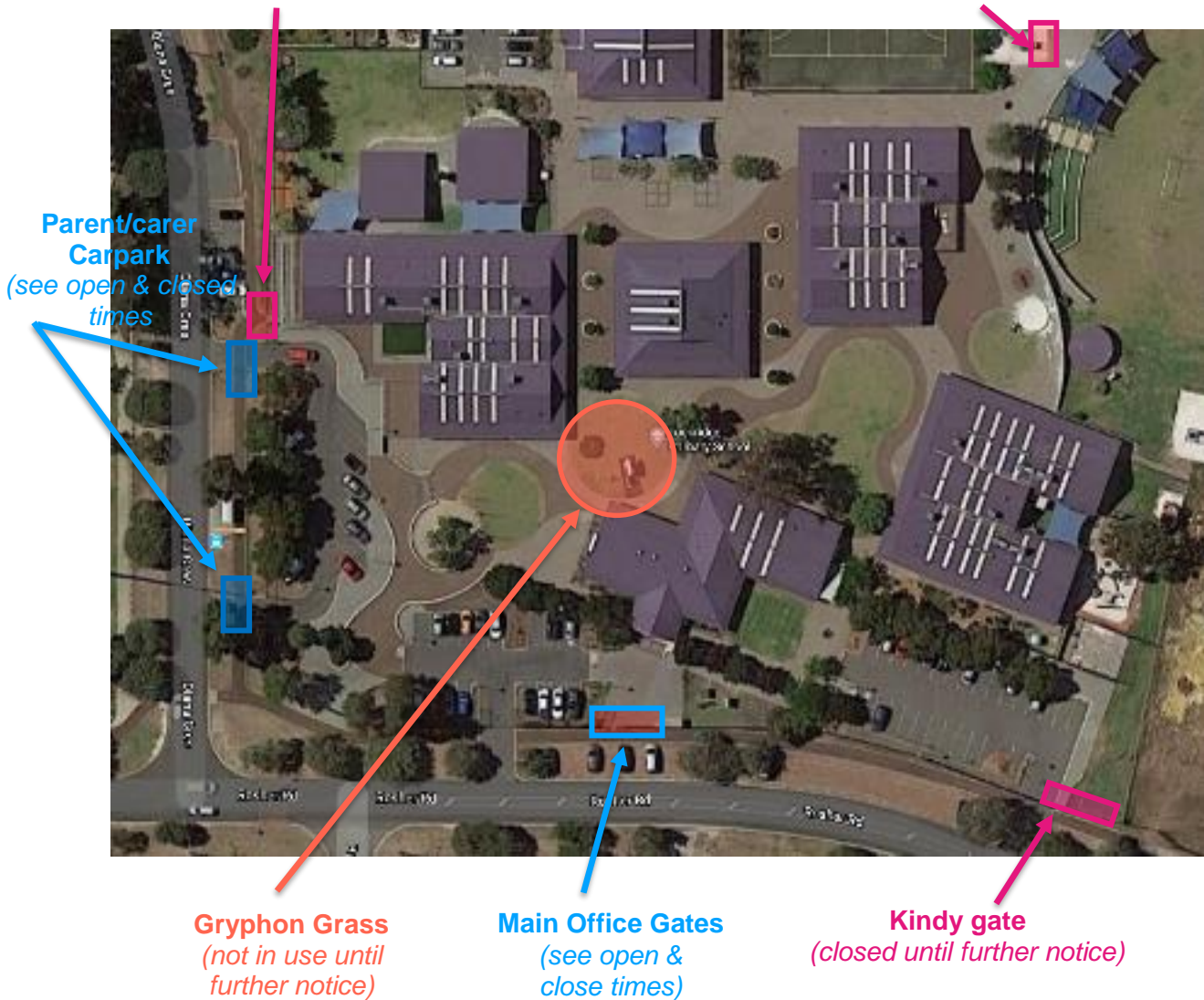
No symptoms after Day 7

If no symptoms after Day 7, leave self-isolation
No test is required

14. Key Locations

PP gate (closed until further notice)

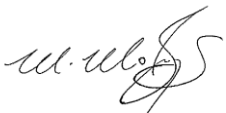
Bridge gate (closed until further notice)



In conclusion...

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 be positive and adaptable. It is more vital than ever for parents/carers to 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