

COVID-19 Update and Online Resources March 24 2020

Dear Parents,

I acknowledge it has been a difficult time for many of you in our school community recently with the emergence of COVID -19. 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 necessary precautions for our school community.

I urge you to observe social distancing measures out in the community wherever possible for the safety of our whole school community and families.

I would like to reassure you that the Lathlain Primary School staff is doing everything they can to assist our students cope with these uncertain times. A large focus of our work is maintaining positive mental and physical health and modelling a positive outlook for our students. Staff are tirelessly continuing with their education programs and implementing risk management strategies as identified by the Department of Education. I will outline some of the strategies we are using below. In addition, we are providing information to parents to assist them with providing educational activities at home. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we will continue our contingency planning for operations. Plans for the continuity of learning and teaching are also essential and we will provide you with resources to assist with curriculum delivery to minimise disruption to student learning (please see below).

We welcome your questions and will direct you to the right place for more information, so if you're worried, please contact the school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

- Large school events that involve students gathering together for incursions and all excursions have now been cancelled until further notice. At this stage this will be until the end of Term 2.
- Parents are now requested where possible to drop all children off at the classroom door and not come into the classroom. This will keep numbers lower in smaller spaces and minimise risk to adults and students.
- All classes are now spread out further at lunch time in order to provide better social distancing and play areas are restricted for certain year levels to spread the students throughout the school at recess and lunchtime.
- It is very difficult to enforce young children staying 1.5 metres apart from each other purely due to the nature in which they play; however, we are doing our best to encourage this. We are asking them to monitor their personal space and keep their hands to themselves.

HEALTH & HYGIENE PRACTICES

- Parents are asked to keep children at home if they are unwell. If your child wakes up stating they do not feel well please do not send them to school. Staff are also encouraged to stay home, so be aware that relief staff will be utilised as the need arises.

- Our cleaners have ramped up their cleaning processes throughout the school, paying attention to door handles and surfaces.
- Handwashing must occur on school site before eating, after the toilet and after a break in the playground.
- Staff are encouraging no face touching (self and others)
- Soap dispensers are full every day and monitored throughout the day.
- All toilet mirrors have posters to remind our students about effective handwashing.
- Please discuss with your child the need to be highly respectful about the resources provided in the school.

WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

Students or staff 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 and staff should notify their school or line manager if the student or staff member 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.

NEW BORDER CONTROLS

All non-essential travel in and out of Western Australia will be banned from 1.30pm on Tuesday, 24 March, 2020.

New restrictions and arrival requirements to travel to Western Australia from other Australian States and Territories in response to COVID-19 will apply unless exempted. Arrivals from interstate will be ordered to self-isolate for 14 days.

TEMPORARY SCHOOL CLOSURE

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.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

- As mentioned in recent correspondence, Lathlain PS has already put in place general hygiene reminders for students. Please reinforce this with your child/ren.
- We ask that if your child is walking or riding to school they take a hand sanitiser with them or wash their hands on arrival at the school.

- Ongoing: Please have a conversation with your children about the hygiene practices, especially no sharing of drink bottles and food. This will always be reinforced by all of our school staff.

COVID-19 CURRICULUM SUPPORT UPDATES

Our school is making preparations for the continuity of teaching and learning in the event of a significant disruption to student learning, including the potential for a temporary school closure. The curriculum support guidelines provided by the Department of Education will assist schools with this important work.

ONLINE RESOURCES

We have provided **online access to resources for parents, caregivers and students**. Below is a link to a variety of online resources that will assist parents and caregivers for their child/ren being at home. Please see the link below.

[ONLINE RESOURCES WEBSITE LINK](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support to our wonderful school and for supporting the Lathlain Primary School staff in their job to put our students first. Stay healthy and safe.

Kind regards,
Ian Bersan

A/Principal
24 March 2020

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.