



Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Resilient
and Strong
Be Your Best

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COVID-19 Update for Parents - 16 March 2020

Cable Beach PS is taking the threat of COVID-19 seriously. 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 students and staff.

We should remain alert, but not be alarmed. It is important that as a school community we apply a common sense, factual and practical approach to COVID-19. The WA education coronavirus support centre has been established to provide coordinated support across all Department of Education schools.

Cable Beach PS will continue to respond to advice from the WA Department of Health and update our community as soon as the advice changes.

Preventing the spread of COVID-19

There are practical and proportionate steps that can be taken to prepare in advance of COVID-19 and precautions that can be put in place to slow its transmission. Staff and students should:

- wash hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty;
- wash hands with soap and water and use alcohol based hand rub (ABHR), before and after eating or prior to food preparation;
- wash hands with soap and water after going to the toilet;
- cough and sneeze with a tissue or bent elbow,
- dispose of used tissues immediately, and use ABHR or soap and water;
- avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose;
- wash hands with soap and water or ABHR when caring for the sick;
- if unwell, avoid contact with others;
- make sure workplaces are clean and hygienic, surfaces (e.g. desks and tables) and objects (e.g. telephones, keyboards) need to be wiped with disinfectant regularly

Should face masks be used?

WA Health does not recommend the use of face masks for the general public to prevent the risk of contracting COVID-19. See the Australian Government fact sheet 'Information on the use of surgical masks' for further information, available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/novel-coronavirus-COVID-19-information-ontheuse-of-surgical-masks>

Will my school close if there is a confirmed staff or student case?

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 may, if there has been a positive COVID- 19 test result in your school community, close your 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.

Where can I get more information?

The WA Department of Health has updated information including frequently asked questions about the novel coronavirus. To view this information, you can visit www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus You can also call the national Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080

Conclusion

As we have already seen across the world, this situation is likely to continue for some time and is evolving and as such, our preparations must be for the short, medium and long term. I understand you may have questions or nuanced enquiries about particular situations. If you would like to discuss these, please contact me on 9194 3700.

Thank you for your vigilance in minimising the risk to our students, staff and community during this time.

Regards

Paul Neates
Principal

At Cable Beach Primary School we provide a values focused, culturally rich and inclusive environment where students thrive, developing a respectful attitude which fosters good citizenship and personal health and well-being (mabu liyan).