



To Parents and Carers,

RE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE 18th March 2020

As you are aware the situation regarding COVID-19 is continually changing. The ADESC leadership team receives regular updates from The Department of Education Western Australia and The Health Department Western Australia. These updates inform us of the levels of risk and action required to respond to such a risk. The school will provide information regarding identifiable risks to support parents and carers to make their own risk assessment regarding attendance at school. I would encourage parents and carers to seek advice from their GP or paediatrician if they have any further concerns.

Direction regarding attendance at school is below. This direction applies to all staff, students and visitors to the school. The school aims to limit the potential spread of infection during school hours through maintaining the health of our students and classroom staff.

It is a possibility that school closures may be considered by the Department of Education in the future. In this situation the principal will receive direct advice and support regarding the closure process and communication materials from the Department of Education's Coronavirus support team.

Upon the school being notified, all families will be immediately contacted and provided with the relevant information. It is important that we have up-to-date phone contact details for your family, as we would call and text you in the event of a closure. We would also post in on our Facebook page. Please notify the front office if these have changed or if you are unsure of the details recorded at the school.

Staff and Student

Any students demonstrating flu-like symptoms will be kept home. Students being sent home from school due to illness is generally at the discretion of the school nurse and principal.

Any school staff demonstrating flu-like symptoms will stay home.

Visitors to the School

The school will limit non-essential visitors to the school site. Essential visitors will include the school chaplain, school psychologist and school nurse. Non-essential visitors will include therapists and volunteers. Children will be collected from and delivered to parents at the front gates or reception as per normal.

Relief Staff:

The school will aim to limit the number of relief staff working within the school to a core group of regular staff.

Excursions

Excursions to local shopping areas will be cancelled until further notice; this is largely due to the unreasonable behaviours by members of the public and my concern of the impact on student wellbeing. The swimming program at ALAC will continue for the time being, as we have been notified that they are following strict guidelines regarding cleaning and chlorination levels. Bush Ranger activities will be limited to open areas where contact with the public is minimal. This may alter at a later date.

If you are concerned about your child attending any activities, please notify your child's teacher or myself and we will provide an alternative learning program at school.

Whole School event

Whole school events, e.g. assemblies, will be held in outside areas until further notice. Where this is not possible, e.g., inclement weather, assemblies will be cancelled.

How to minimise the spread of COVID-19

- Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using and alcohol based hand gel
- Refraining from touching mouth or nose
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow
- Dispose of tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene
- Avoiding close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres)

Who cannot attend school – advice as at 18th March 2020

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

- a) 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;
- b) left or transited through Iran on or after 1 March, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after leaving Iran;
- c) 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;
- d) left or transited through Italy in the last 14 days, they must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of leaving Italy;
- e) returned from any overseas travel after 15 March, they must isolate themselves for 14 days from the time of arrival;
- f) 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 Coronavirus should follow the advice of the Department of Health and stay away from school whilst awaiting results.

COVID-19 symptoms

People with COVID-19 may experience

- Fever;
- Flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue; or
- Shortness of breath

For the latest health information and health related enquiries, please visit [WA Department of Health](#) or access the helpline 1800 020 080

Testing

The WA Chief Health Officer, Dr Andrew Robertson, has advised people should not go to be tested for COVID-19 to either COVID clinics or GPs unless they are currently experiencing symptoms and meet the testing criteria.

To be eligible for testing people must:

- be currently experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough or sore throat AND have returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days
- OR be currently experiencing symptoms, and be a contact of a confirmed case
- OR be currently experiencing symptoms and believe they have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19.

We acknowledge it is a stressful time for the community and urge everyone to focus on facts and remember we are well supported by the Health and Education Departments. Our focus will remain the safety of students, staff and the wider community.

Thank you for your cooperation and support to work calmly together maintain a health school community.

Warm regards,

Karen Campbell
Principal
Albany Secondary Education Support Centre