

## COVID-19 # 4 UPDATE

[www.aspirisps.wa.edu.au](http://www.aspirisps.wa.edu.au)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Monday the 23rd of March.

**New Information appears in RED**

Dear School Community

As mentioned in my update last week, our staff in your school have been working tirelessly to minimise the risks resulting from the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Again, I reassure all families that we will do everything practically possible to maintain the safety and security of our school community, and this includes confidential handling of family information.

The virulence and impact of the COVID-19 spread is changing every day, and we must do all we can to slow it down so that our Health Department can continue to provide a high-quality service to those who may be affected. The opposite of this is a system that cannot cope with the real day to day demand. So, this is why I am asking for your partnership in keeping our school community as healthy and as safe as we can.

Naturally, there will be a lot of confusion and questions. We welcome your questions and will direct you to the right place for more information, so if you're worried, please contact the school. We are happy to help... and so is your General Practitioner. If the question is about health of your child and family – go there first.

**As of the time of writing this message, there remains no indication that our school will be shutdown either pre or post the coming holiday period.**

Should you choose to self-isolate your children at any time, please email me at [noel.morgan@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:noel.morgan@education.wa.edu.au).

Please note that it still the position of the school on direction from the Department of Education and the Teachers Union that no work will be sent home for students undertaking voluntary self-isolation however, some material is now available on our Website to assist families engage students.

There has been some planning and redevelopments since our last update:

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES – new information**

- **Only school staff will be allowed on site beyond gate lock in the morning and gate open in the afternoon.** If your child is late for school you will need to attend the Front Office, drop them off and Front Office staff will take them to classes.
- If you are delivering a forgotten lunch or medications etc, bring them to the Front Office and the team will deliver them to classes / teachers.
- **No external providers will be allowed on site** - so externally provided Music lessons and visiting Therapists will cease until further notice.
- **Kiss and drop at the Classroom door** – All children are to be dropped off at the classroom door. Parents are not to enter the classroom.
- Events that involve students gathering together for incursions and all excursions have now been cancelled until further notice.
- All school assemblies have now been postponed for ALL of Semester 1.
- After school programs are all now cancelled (not OSH Club)
- We now ask that parents drop all children off at the classroom door and not come into the classroom.
- HEART award processes are currently being revised. More information coming soon.
- After 2 days of critically focused observation, our recess and lunch breaks will remain as they are as we are satisfied that we can maintain the current separation areas in place. There will be no change to Kindy and Pre-Primary times.

- All recess and lunchtime eating will remain in our designated areas and supervised by classroom teachers, to ensure no sharing of food, and to reinforce hygiene practices.
- Students, transitioning between classes and rooms will walk in single file.
- All children are to leave the school grounds with parents on the bell – as articulated previously. This was well done on Wednesday.
- As mentioned previously, students will not be permitted to remain on site after the school bell unless attending an approved organised activity.

### Communication with Parents

- Our main form of communication with parents is through our school app Seesaw and email.
- We will send you a text message for urgent matters asking you to check your email.

Please ensure that we have your correct contact details. If you have changed your phone number in the last 12 months, please ensure we have the new number.

### HEALTH & HYGIENE PRACTICES-

- Parents are asked to keep children at home if they are unwell.
- Children will not be permitted to play on any of the school playground equipment after the final bell.
- Our cleaners have ramped up their cleaning processes throughout the school.
- Handwashing must occur on school site before eating, after the toilet and after a break in the playground.
- No face touching (self and others)
- Soap dispensers are full every day.
- Hand washing songs that promote an effective washing time are being promoted through the school.
- Paper towel is replenished every day.
- Please discuss with your child the need to be highly respectful about the resources provided in the school bathrooms (resources are finite, and we have had socially inappropriate actions in some areas of the school that impact on our resource levels and the respect for the work of our cleaners).

### UPDATES FOR THIS WEEK

- C19 Aspiri Primary School Response Team. Our school currently has a school response team that meet as often as required. The team has a school closure plan that will be implemented if directed to do so by the WA Chief Medical Officer.
- In the event of school closure, our SRT team will ensure the school is in lock down mode, which includes classroom blocks, gates and general entrance to the school. There will be no access to our school until we are advised to reopen.
- Staff Absences:

Staff will follow Health Department advice on when they are to stay home. We have some staff members who are either immuno-compromised or have immediate family members who are compromised. I expect our staff to make personal health decisions that are best for them just as I do parents for their children. Currently I expect our staff absences to increase over the coming days / weeks. We will do our best to replace staff when they are absent. In the case where we do not have enough teaching staff to cover our regular classrooms, as per our usual processes, we will be combining classes, keeping in mind trying not to compromise sensible social distancing. In the case of Education Assistants, we will endeavour to replace our special needs assistants. Where we cannot do this, we will endeavour to inform the parent of the student affected.

- We have collated a “Learning at Home” Toolkit which will include a list of apps, websites and links to direct you to some suggested curriculum related activities that can be completed at home. This has been placed

on our website. This is a fantastic homework hub. Our aim is to look after our children and families by continuing to work as a school community. We are not currently providing individual homework packages. Our website: <https://www.aspirips.wa.edu.au/>

- **Library Books, Home Readers and study folders will no longer be sent home until further notice. Please return all items to the school if any remain at home.**

## **PLEASE NOTE: UPDATE TO TRAVEL ADVICE**

The Prime Minister has introduced measures banning all new visitors from overseas unless they are Australian Citizens returning to Australia. In addition, those returning must undertake a mandatory 14-day self-isolation requirement. This applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

All students and staff members who have travelled from or transited through ANY international destination must also now self-isolate for 14 days before returning to school. Should they develop symptoms within this time, please attend a COVID-19 clinic or call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080 and advise the school in writing or by calling.

**We recommend any non-essential travel be reviewed and postponed to another time.**

## **ONGOING .... HERE ARE AREAS WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO FAMILIARISE YOURSELVES WITH:**

1. Children are to be picked up at 2.40pm unless attending before / after school care
2. If possible students should not arrive prior to 8.25am.
3. Children are not permitted to play on any of the school play equipment before and after school.
4. Ensure your contact details are up to date- please contact the office
5. What parents can do to help control the spread of the virus- check websites
6. If your child is unwell keep them at home
7. Check other updates for complete and cumulative information.

## **STEPS THE SCHOOL IS TAKING TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

The need for additional hygiene practices;

- Thorough washing of hands
  - Covering mouth when coughing or sneezing
  - Avoiding touching their face
  - No sharing of drink bottles or food
  - Signs on doors to remind students about handwashing and instructions for thorough hand washing displayed in all bathrooms
  - Continued provision of liquid soap in dispensers in all toilet blocks
  - Additional cleaning of surfaces throughout the School, and particularly telephones
  - No shaking of hands
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- All visitors to the school will now be limited to essential personnel / family members only and are required to sign in at the front office.

## **6. IMPORTANT LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-covid-19-countries.htm>

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/current-alerts/novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>

Department of Education

<https://www.dese.gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19>

Department of Health

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Thank you all for assisting in these important containment and risk minimisation measures. Updates will be forwarded as required, and will be available on the school website: [www.aspirips.wa.edu.au](http://www.aspirips.wa.edu.au)

Thank you for your ongoing support to our wonderful school and for supporting the greater interests of the health of our community.

Kindest regards

Noel Morgan

PRINCIPAL