



WESS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

30th January 2020

The Novel Coronavirus continues to be an ever-developing situation that health authorities world-wide are working on. We, at WESS, are following the guidelines set out by the Queensland Department of Education upon advice from the Queensland Department of Health. I am in daily communication with the Department of Education.

However as your principal I, along with our leadership team, have also decided to inform you of our internal WESS plans for this developing situation.

We know this is a concerning situation for our community. We are taking it seriously, and below are the processes we have put in place at WESS, on top of the directives from the Department of Education.

Our teachers and our staff are hyper vigilant, and we ask that our parent and carer community also remain hyper vigilant. While remaining in this heightened state of alertness, we don't want to instil fear in our students. Any discussions at school and, we request, at home about this, should be adjusted and appropriate for your child's age.

We are aware of families who have visited China recently and they voluntarily self-isolated before school started. We are currently assisting families who are coming back from China about when their isolation period will finish.

WESS actions:

- We have had the advice from the Department of Education translated into Mandarin and it has been posted on the school Facebook site
- All staff have received resources from the World Health Organisation and the Queensland Department Health to reinforce best hygiene practices
- All students have had a lesson today reminding them about what good hygiene looks like
- All staff will be hyper vigilant to **any** illness
- If a student falls ill, our school procedures will be followed (the student taken to the office and the parents or carers called. See our Parent Handbook on our WESS website) www.westendss.eq.edu.au
- Any student showing virus / flu-like symptoms will go to the office and be isolated until they are collected. Their parent or carer will be urgently notified
- We will work with Queensland Health on the continued health of our students and wider school community
- We will communicate any updates received immediately via our Facebook page and then subsequently via email
- Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) and our P&C Executive are following the above procedures and are also remaining hyper-vigilant

(continued overleaf)

What can you and your family do?

- If you/your family have travelled to China and/or Hong Kong recently, **you must self-isolate for 14 days** from the date you arrived back in Australia. Please contact the WESS office to let us know about this.
- If your child is ill, please keep them away from school and let the WESS office know (via QParents, email, or phone 07 3010 8222)
- Share this information with your school networks, so that all parents and carers are aware
- Please return the slip at the end of this update to the class teacher so we know all our community is aware of the latest advice
- Practice good hygiene at home
- Reinforce with your children that they should NOT share food at school
- If you are contacted by the school to pick up your ill student, please make your way to the school quickly
- Direct any concerns to admin@westendss.eq.edu.au

Hygiene reminders to reinforce at home:

- Wash your hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty (rub hands for 20 seconds)
- Wash hands after coughing or sneezing; before, during, and after you prepare food; before eating; after toilet use; when hands are visibly dirty; after handling animals
- If your hands aren't visibly dirty, wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use an alcohol rub
- As well as hand washing, avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- When coughing or sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue
- Avoid close contact with others when you are experiencing a cough or fever

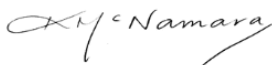
For further resources

If you want to read further, here are some good resources:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/diseases/coronavirus>

Thank you, as always, for your never-ending support. What a fabulous community we have here at WESS.



Kim McNamara
Principal

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SLIP

☐ I have read this information.

Name of Student:	Class:
Name of Parent/Carer:	
Signature of Parent/Carer:	Date: