

Hillarys Primary School COVID-19 Update
Thursday 14 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and patience during this time.

Today, the State Government announced changes to education based on a review of current arrangements and updated health advice.

As of Monday, 18 May 2020 all students are expected to attend school, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.

This means students are either:

- at school;
- have a medical referral to learn from home; or
- recorded as absent if they do not attend. (unauthorised)

This week we have seen over 93% of our students return to school, which has been fantastic.

Current health advice states that schools remain safe for staff and students and should remain open. We want to make sure all children get the best education possible, which is why attending school is so important.

For parents with medical advice that their child should not attend school, we will work with you in partnership with the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health to support your child's learning from home. If you feel your child is in this category, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will work together on the next steps.

If your child does not attend school without a medical reason, they will be marked as absent and will not be provided a learning program.

The extra cleaning and hygiene practices implemented at the start of Term 2 will continue and as will the social distancing measures.

Parents/carers are still required to drop children at the school gate and not enter the school grounds. Our supervision measures before and after school will continue and we appreciate your ongoing cooperation and support.

Semester 1 reporting requirements will be finalised and communicated next week.

Please continue to help us by;

- Maintaining a regular school boundary pick-up and drop-off point for your children. Please remind them daily
- Not entering the school grounds – please seek support from our duty staff or call the office
- Contacting the office for late arrivals or early student collection during the day
- Collecting Kindy and Pre-primary students at 2:45 pm
- Keeping your children close to you whilst waiting for siblings to arrive
- Moving off school grounds quickly to minimise traffic congestion and maintain social distancing
- Sending students to school after 8:30 am - there is no supervision in the Assembly Area and staff are supervising the school boundary.

Please read on for an update from the Chief Health Officer.

Take care everyone,

Yours truly

Trevor Mitchell
Principal
Hillarys Primary School
14 May 2020



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) *Update*

Dear parents and students

Updated Advice from the Chief Health Officer

Schools have now been open for students since the commencement of Term 2 and I am very encouraged by the way the school community, parents and students are caring for their health and attending school in a responsible way. This is building community confidence in the safety of our schools with the overall attendance rate reaching over 82%.

WA recently recorded 14 days with only 2 reported cases, both of whom were rapidly identified and are in isolation. With over 56,000 negative tests and only 7 active cases, there is no evidence of community transmission.

The WA State Government has recently announced further decisions about the easing of restrictions in our state as part of a phased approach in the management of the pandemic. These decisions have been based on public health advice and will continue to be carefully monitored in the weeks ahead.

Public health measures already in place to protect the community will remain a focus during this time, including broad testing, comprehensive contact tracing when a case is identified, isolation and quarantine measures where required, and education about social distancing and hand hygiene. Plans remain in place to ensure immediate response to any reported infections in the school setting when needed to prevent the spread of any illness.

I continue to recommend that schools should remain open to all students and families should be encouraged to return their children to the classroom. If your child is more vulnerable due to health problems or you have a vulnerable adult living in your home, then I would recommend seeking advice from your specialist medical practitioner as to whether returning to school remains the best option for you.

We need to remain diligent during this time and I encourage you to please make sure you keep your child home if they are unwell and, if you or your child have fever, cough or cold symptoms, get tested for COVID-19. We should all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines when interacting with other parents, teachers and school staff.

Thank you again for your leadership and support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

DR ANDY ROBERTSON

Chief Health Officer

May 2020

