



## Information for parents regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Monday 23 March 2020

While the situation regarding the COVID-19 continues to evolve, the Department of Education sector has established plans and a team to support principals and schools. It is important that as a school community we apply common sense, factual information and a practical approach to COVID-19.

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 will, if there has been a positive COVID-19 test result in our school, close our 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.

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. This contact may be during the school day, or before or after school. It is therefore important that we have up-to-date contact details for your children. Please contact the front office to update your details.

While it is acknowledged that this may be a stressful time for the community, parents are reminded that schools may open and close and that the reason for any school closure will be to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

### How to minimise the spread of COVID-19

Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol based hand gel

- Refraining from touching mouth and nose
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow
- Dispose of the 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 metre).

At school we are constantly reminding students of the importance of personal hygiene. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. We provide the same advice to our staff.

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

I have included links for parents on how to talk to your child:

<https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-cope-with-stress-related-to-covid-19/>

[https://www.telethonkids.org.au/news--events/news-and-events-nav/2020/march/tips-for-discussing-coronavirus-with-your-kids/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=Coronavirus&fbclid=IwAR2gFRY6zXeWyM-hbGuNsr6Sv792EIX8oRTe-HQReKRwy3NAvkENJ3EruDQ](https://www.telethonkids.org.au/news--events/news-and-events-nav/2020/march/tips-for-discussing-coronavirus-with-your-kids/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=Coronavirus&fbclid=IwAR2gFRY6zXeWyM-hbGuNsr6Sv792EIX8oRTe-HQReKRwy3NAvkENJ3EruDQ)

Our committed teachers are working hard to support student learning and your child's wellbeing. We are currently investigating how we can expand our online support should school close. At Ocean Reef Senior High School, we are well positioned to provide online resources through our Connect and OneNote platforms.

Teachers at this point in time, are not in a position to provide individual work. The Department of Education has opened a new online website where parents can access activities and resources across learning areas and year groups. See link below:

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home>

If your child requires additional support at school or you wish to speak to someone, please call the front office on 6206 2700.

Your continual support and understanding that we are all working through an incredibly challenging time.

Take care.

Karon Brookes  
Principal