



The Beehive Montessori School Inc.

Curtin Avenue, Mosman Park WA 6012

PO Box 81, Mosman Park WA 6012

Tel: 08 9383 1283

Email: admin@beehive.wa.edu.au

ABN: 30 855 464 402

Our Ref: A047/20.DMc

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

With the current heightened activity around COVID-19 Beehive Montessori School is implementing measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to students, staff and visitors. Please be assured that the School has a COVID-19 Contingency Plan in place, and some of the information is included in this letter.

We ask that you read carefully as this letter contains important information that affects you and your children.

The measures we have taken so far, and now plan to implement, are in line with guidelines from the Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA) in conjunction with the WA Departments of Health and Education.

The current focus is on being prepared, and implementing precautions that can be put in place to slow the transmission of COVID-19. It is important that as a school community we apply a common sense, factual and practical approach to COVID-19. We will only provide information which we know to be factual and is provided through the WA Departments of Health and Education and AISWA.

Attendance at school

Students, parents, staff or visitors 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 1st March, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after leaving Iran;
- c) left or transited through the **Republic of Korea**, on or after 5th 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) 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.
- f) returned to Australia from any country from 16th March until you have isolated yourself for 14 days as advised by the Australian Government on 15th March 2020. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/current-alerts/novel-coronavirus>;

Students or staff who have been tested for COVID-19 should follow the advice of the Department of Health and stay away from school whilst awaiting results. The above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.



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Parents/carers and staff should notify their school if the student or staff member will be away for the isolation period and confirm the date in which they were last overseas, particularly in **mainland China, Iran, the Republic of Korea or Italy**, or have been advised by the Department of Health to isolate.

Hygiene

We ask you be vigilant around the recommended hygiene measures of regular handwashing for 20 seconds with soap and water and teach your children about the importance of this. Our classrooms and toilets are well equipped with cleaning supplies and we have stepped up the School's regular cleaning regime. Posters reminding students of correct handwashing techniques are in every bathroom and classroom.

We require every student to have their own water bottle every day as we will be turning off the shared water fountain in the piazza.

For the time being, students will no longer be able share food for their birthday, however the teachers will discuss with them another way of celebrating. Class cooking and food preparation activities are also no longer available.

Our duty of care to our students and staff prompts us to be on high alert for any members of our school community displaying symptoms. We will act immediately by asking anyone attending school to absent themselves if they display cold or flu like symptoms and they need to be completely well, or in the case of allergy rather than illness related symptom require a medical clearance, prior to the return to school.

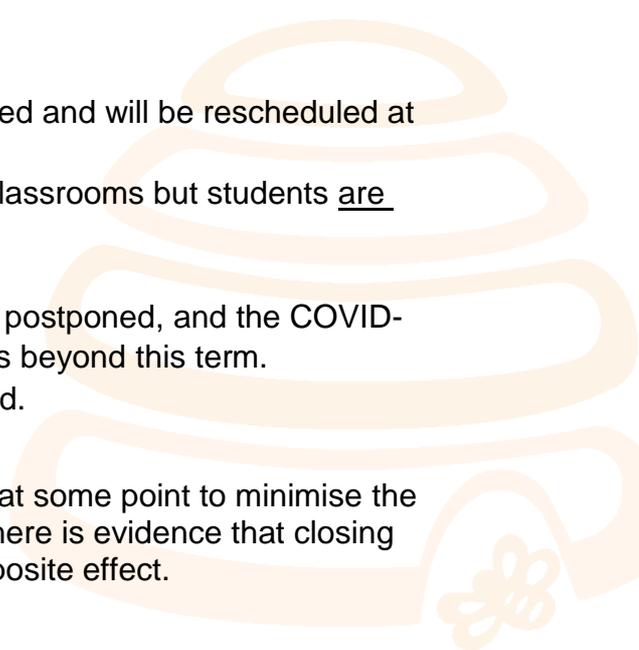
Please make sure the office has your current contact details in the event we need to call you to collect your child, and we ask that you make every effort to do so as soon as possible. We seek your cooperation at all times and assure you of our commitment to a sensible and practical approach to this pandemic.

School events

- The parent evening for 17th March 2020 is postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.
- Harmony Day on 20th March 2020 will proceed in classrooms but students are not to bring food to share.
- Corroborees will be cancelled for the time being.
- All other school based events this term will also be postponed, and the COVID-19 Contingency Plan Committee will discuss events beyond this term.
- All excursions and incursions will also be postponed.

Possible school closures

It is expected that schools across Australia will be closed at some point to minimise the spread of COVID-19, though this is still under review as there is evidence that closing schools not directly affected by the virus can have the opposite effect.





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In preparation for school closures, teachers are preparing lessons and activities that your child can do at home. Please note that e-learning is not consistent with Montessori philosophy and practices, however teachers will do their best to provide lessons that are age appropriate and some of these may include online activities.

We are also developing plans for maintaining contact with each student during any isolation period.

In the event of school closures, each family will need to have a plan in place that works for their own family and work commitments.

Updates

We will continue to update all parents regularly and as needed via letters such as this and/or via the Thursday communication and newsletter.

In addition, here are some websites that may help:

- Smart Traveller for all travel advice <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19>
- World Health Organisation for up to date information <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- Department of Health WA for fact sheets and information on COVID Clinics <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- AISWA for latest updates for schools <https://www.ais.wa.edu.au/coronavirus-information>
- YouMeMontessori for advice on remaining positive during a difficult time <https://www.youmemontessori.com/coronavirus-and-depression-stay-calm-and-montessori-on/>
- An item on how to talk to children about the virus <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-04/how-to-talk-to-children-about-coronavirus/12020324>

If you require further information, please contact us on 9383 1283 or admin@beehive.wa.edu.au or the WA Health Department Coronavirus Helpline 1800 020 080.

If the situation changes, we will contact you with an update.

Yours faithfully

Debbie McCarthy
Acting Principal

