



COVID-19 Policy

Policy

The Beehive Montessori School seeks to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all students and staff at the School, and this includes taking due precautions to limit the transmission of the COVID-19 virus within the School community.

Although there are a range of factors beyond the School's control which contribute to the level of infection which occurs, there is strong evidence that following public health protocols, including vaccination and increased hygiene practices will reduce the frequency and severity of disease and protect the most vulnerable members of our community as much as is possible.

Background

The local, national and international impact of COVID-19 has been significant, and the School has frequently been required to implement State and National regulations at short notice while maintaining continuity of student access to the educational and social/emotional aspects of their school life.

Since early 2020 the School has implemented a range of procedures to support appropriate management relating to COVID-19, including establishing a COVID Advisory Committee of Beehive parents with relevant professional backgrounds and representatives from the School Board to support the Principal and Deputy Principal in developing a COVID Management Plan.

In addition, all teachers developed a Learning from Home program to ensure a continuity of 'hands on' learning via a Weekly Work Plan and videoconferencing. This was designed to continue students' Montessori education in an interesting, stimulating and manageable way at home.

This, and the regular updates and advice from the Government, Department of Health, Department of Education and the Association of Independent Schools WA (AISWA), informs the School's procedures and practices to ensure we provide a safe environment for all stakeholders.

Implementation

1. The School shall:
 - 1.1 Commit to continuing to implement all required protocols from the State and National government in response to this public health issue. This includes but is not limited to
 - 1.1.1 mandated vaccination of all staff (teaching and non-teaching);

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- 1.1.2 mandated vaccination of all 'regular' visitors, i.e. those who visit the school weekly, for example playgroup parents, contractors and therapists but not parents/guardians dropping off or collecting children from school);
 - 1.1.3 additional hygiene practices throughout the School, including the use of masks when directed and physical distancing;
 - 1.1.4 periods of restricted face to face access to visitors and/or parents, including observations, meetings and events;
 - 1.1.5 temporary school closures as directed;
 - 1.1.6 learning from home support in the event of a mandated lockdown; and
 - 1.1.7 report to relevant authorities as required.
 - 1.2 Continue to communicate to parents about any changes in School procedures via School Stream as this is the most efficient and immediate communication pathway.
 - 1.3 Use an approved Visitor Management System at the front office whereby all visitors, contractors and therapists sign in and provide evidence of their COVID-19 vaccination status. This does not include parents/guardians dropping off or collecting children from school.
 - 1.4 Keep a record of the vaccination status staff and regular visitors; and that of eligible students as shared by their parents. Whilst **there is not a current mandate for children to be vaccinated against COVID-19**, the School appreciates parents providing information on their child's COVID vaccination status to assist the School with risk management and planning.
2. The Principal, assisted by Deputy Principal shall:
- 2.1 Make all operational decisions:
 - 2.1.1 based on Government regulations and advice from the COVID Advisory Committee, Department of Health, Department of Education and AISWA; and
 - 2.1.2 maintaining a Montessori-led approach to any learning from home program.
 - 2.2 Report updates or relevant information to the Beehive Montessori School Board monthly and more frequently as required.
3. School staff shall:
- 3.1 support the School's implementation of Government and/or health directives, including providing evidence of COVID vaccination;
 - 3.2 follow Department of Health directions in the event of exposure (or risk of exposure) to COVID-19 and notify the School;
 - 3.3 report any COVID positive test within their household and inform the School; and
 - 3.4 remain at home and notify the School if they display cold or flu like symptoms.
4. Parents/guardians shall:
- 4.1 Support the School and staff as they implement procedures or practices based on the advice of the COVID Advisory Committee, Department of Health, Department of Education and AISWA.
 - 4.2 follow Department of Health and Government directions in the event of exposure (or risk of exposure) to COVID-19;

- 4.3 report any COVID positive test within their household and inform the School via email to admin@beehive.wa.edu.au ;
- 4.4 pick up children from School promptly when notified that their child is displaying cold or flu like symptoms, and keep them at home until they no longer display any symptoms or on medical advice;
- 4.5 inform the school of any changes to their contact and emergency contact information;
- 4.6 consider sharing their child's COVID-19 vaccination record (as mentioned in 1.4 above) via email to admin@beehive.wa.edu.au to assist the School in minimizing the risk to the Beehive community's most vulnerable members;
- 4.7 Understand that the mandate for regular visitors to be vaccinated does not include parents dropping off and picking up children and ad hoc meetings, however it does include any regular volunteering such as the uniform shop, cooking in classes, helping in the library etc; and
- 4.8 Continue to monitor School Stream for updated information or changes.

Related Documentation and Resources

[Association of Independent Schools WA \(AISWA\)](#)

[Department of Health WA \(Coronavirus\)](#)

[Department of Health WA exposure sites](#)

[National Framework for Managing COVID-19 in Schools and Early Childhood Education and Care](#)

[Public Health Act 2016 WA- Education Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#) No 4

[Public Health Act 2016 WA Booster Vaccination \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

COVID Management Plan

Code of Conduct

Critical Incident and Emergency Management Policy

Risk Management Policy

Student Health Policy

Work Health and Safety Policy

Approved 24/1/22 by the Beehive Montessori School Board. Next review due 24/1/23