



Lake Illawarra South Public School
119-129 Reddall Parade
Lake Illawarra, 2528
Ph: 4295 1924
Fax: 4297 2803
a.b.n.82558915977
lakeillaws-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Wednesday 18th March 2020

COVID-19 School Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last couple of weeks there has been a great deal of information filtering through every aspect of society in regards to COVID-19. It is important to communicate with our community to assure you that the school is doing all we can to make sure our school continues to be stable, safe and secure for our students, staff and community.

Prior to the weekend announcements, minimal changes had occurred at school. However, as a staff, we had already begun to take precautionary steps, which included ordering additional liquid soap and hand sanitisers and teachers revisiting correct hand washing procedures and cough etiquette.

Since Friday, additional measures have been announced by the government that impact our operation. A number of additional strategies have been implemented at Lake Illawarra South to help minimise risk to students and staff.

The following strategies will assist with the smooth and safe running of our school over the coming weeks leading into the end of Term 1.

- Enforcement of government directives related to travel and self-isolation
- Unwell staff and students sent home as soon as possible
- Enhanced cleaning taking place throughout the school
- Steps to ensure hygiene standards in our school and offices are maintained and that appropriate cleaning will take place in response to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Enforcement of social distancing measures, including cancellation of organised events such as assemblies
- Cancellation of all excursions
- Students are going straight to class at bell times – no large assemblies to take place.
- We encourage families to implement a Kiss & Drop approach at the beginning of the day and a pick up and depart immediately in the afternoons to minimise the number of people on school grounds.
- Students are eating their recess and lunch in class groups supervised by teachers.
- Various school and sporting activities have been postponed or cancelled.
 - **Cancelled:** Easter Hat Parade, ANZAC Service, Parent attendance at Harmony Day, Scripture Easter Assembly, excursions for remainder of term
 - **Postponed:** Cross Country Carnival

Advice from the Department of Health is that if your child has a sore throat, heavy cold, cough, fever or flu-like symptoms they are to stay home until they are better. If you are informed by LISPS staff that your child is displaying these symptoms, please collect them from school promptly.

We encourage parents and carers to download the NSW School Updates app which allows parents and carers to receive operational status for NSW public schools.

The most effective thing you can do to protect yourself and your family is to follow the advice of health officials.

How can you support your child

It is perfectly normal for children to have questions about events that are covered in the media, such as the information currently being distributed about COVID-19. Children look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance on how to manage their reactions and you can help your child by remaining calm, reassuring them and clarifying information accurately.

There is a common misunderstanding that talking with your child about a topic such as COVID-19 may increase their anxiety. This is not the case. It is important to listen to your child and answer their questions as honestly as possible and correct any misunderstandings. This will help them feel better informed and understand what is happening. Keeping up to date with the facts from reliable sources will help keep conversations calm, considered, and constructive. Provide information in words that are appropriate to the age of your child. Children can be distressed by hearing repeated stories so monitor how much your child is being exposed to on television and social media and encourage them to talk to you about what they are seeing and hearing.

Support is also available through a number of agencies and community organisations. Parents and carers can:

- call the National Coronavirus Health Information line (1800 020 080)
- review the NSW Health COVID-19 website for the latest information and advice
- obtain help and information from the local General Practitioner or Community Health Centre

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time. We know many parents and carers are concerned for themselves and their family. Please be assured our school, under the guidance of the Department of Education, is taking every precaution to make sure a stable and safe school environment is being maintained. Please also understand that this is the most current information at the time of distribution and that this may change as new information comes to light.

Karen Simula
Principal