



ASHTONFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Dear parents and carers,

The situation regarding COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. As a result, the Department of Education is in close contact with schools regarding operational restrictions. I will be providing timely updates to the community that reflect changes to Ashtonfield Public School as they come to hand.

The Department of Education (DoE) provided a media release last night. Specifically, the DoE has directed that all NSW schools take the following actions:

- school assemblies and events with large gatherings are to be cancelled, and
- all major Arts, Sports and Initiative activities and events will be temporarily ceased until further notice.

For Ashtonfield Public School:

- Monday morning assemblies, PBL assemblies, Friday afternoon assemblies and Student Parliament are cancelled, furthermore class teachers will take students immediately to class in the mornings and after breaks.
- Lunches will be split K-2 and 3-6, with K-2 students having their break half an hour early until further notice.
- This week, the Paul Jennings workshop will be cancelled, cross country will be postponed awaiting further instructions, Phoenix Farm postponed and the National Day against Bullying assembly planned for Friday is cancelled. Students will continue to complete anti-bullying lessons during class time.
- This term, Parent teacher interviews are cancelled with more information to follow as to replacement arrangements. Our athletics elimination carnival, school disco and Easter Eggshibition are cancelled.
- More information will follow regarding Term 2 and future events that have been planned.

The DoE is reminding school communities of the following three actions we will take to help manage the spread of COVID-19.

1. **Wash your hands** regularly and thoroughly.
2. **Sneeze into your elbow or a tissue**, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands.
3. **Stay home if you are unwell** and in schools, send home staff or students who show signs of being unwell through the day

On March 15, the Government put in place new measures for people arriving in Australia. Individuals **must** self-isolate for a period of 14 days on arrival to Australia, including returning Australian citizens and residents.

You are also required to self-isolate if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or if you have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Our school bathrooms have soap facilities and I have placed soap in each classroom. Each class will continue to learn about hand washing practices and coughing and sneezing etiquettes. Posters are in every classroom. In addition, classes will visit the bathrooms multiple times each day to reinforce handwashing.

Classes and school lessons will continue as normal with learning as our focus. I will update community members when decisions are made and actions implemented. Further information is available on the DoE website at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus>

Your assistance in keeping our school community a calm learning environment is appreciated.

Melissa Scully
Principal
Ashtonfield Public School