

# MERRYLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Fowler Rd, MERRYLANDS 2160

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*~ excellence and social responsibility in a safe and caring school ~*

## Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Department of Education is introducing proactive measures to limit the impact of COVID-19, often referred to as Coronavirus. I can assure you that at this time we have not received any confirmed reports of Covid-19 in our school and we have protocols for reporting any cases to the NSW Department of Education and NSW Health. We ask if any parents have children attend a local doctor and are sent for further testing to notify the school ASAP and these reports are also sent to the Dept.of Education Hotline.

Our school is guided by the advice received from the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Department of Health. The current advice to schools from DET:

- All excursions are cancelled/put on hold until further notice
- All assemblies and special events are suspended
- All sporting/special events involving other schools

For Term 1 at our school this means these events are suspended/postponed:

Every Tuesday	K-2, 3-6 assemblies
Every Wednesday and Thursday	Playgroup
Every Friday	PSSA
After school	PSSA training sessions
18 March	Rugby League Gala day
24 March	SRC badging assembly
27 March	Mayor- Leaders visit
1 April	Harmony Day
3 April	Cross Country
7 and 8 April	Stage 3 excursion
8 April	Our Spec Choir rehearsals
9 April	Easter Hat parade
Term 2 excursions for Stage 2 & 3 are on hold until further notice.	

Our scripture teachers have advised that they are still happy to attend tomorrow unless there is further advice given.

Tuesday dance rehearsals for Spectacular are still planned to take place from next week at this stage.

Friday Community Connect will be open for parents to drop in for information/assistance in the HALL (as it is a more open space).

We are also making changes to playground areas, depending on weather conditions to reduce the number of children in close proximity.

Details about refunds for excursions will be sent home later as advice is given about these activities at school.

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All members of the community are encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth as this is a major way to pick up infections. The school will reinforce hygiene practices with all our students, and we ask that this be supported at home. This includes:



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.

**Extra soap & dispensers have been placed in toilets and classrooms for student access. Students will also be asked not to shake hands and avoid unnecessary touching of their face.**

NSW Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. A close contact is a person who has spent significant time either face to face (15 minutes) or in an enclosed space (2 hours or more) as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. NSW Health is advising people falling into these categories not to attend work, school or early childhood and childcare services.

The Australian Government now advises all Australians to reconsider their needs for overseas travel at this time. Regardless of the destination, your age or health, if overseas travel is not essential, you should consider carefully whether now is the right time to travel.

More information can be found by visiting the following websites:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/.../school-saf.../novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/.../dise.../Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

The NSW Department of Education continues to work closely with NSW Health to monitor and respond to developments and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Your cooperation is appreciated. I will endeavour to keep you updated as the advice changes.

Bronwyn York

Principal, Merrylands Public School

16 March 2020