



Walliston Primary School

Dianella Road, Walliston , WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6076

COVID Update – 10th MARCH 2022 – VERY HIGH CASELOAD AT SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, the State Government has announced that Western Australia will move to very high caseload settings from 12.01am Thursday 10 March.

We continue to follow the latest WA Health advice.

Under very high caseload setting, students who are 'non-household' **asymptomatic close contacts** (other than those who are household close contacts) may now:

- continue attending school;
- attend before school care or after school care;
- attend school-based sporting or cultural training, practice, or events organised through the school and held immediately before or after school at their school;
- travel between the student's usual place of residence and their school;
- when attending school, cannot attend any school based excursions or off-site school carnivals

'Non-household also known as Other than Household' close-contacts mean that students are identified as **school and community based** close contacts, and would come under the above settings if they are **asymptomatic**.

At all other times, asymptomatic close contacts should quarantine for seven days and get tested. As with other close contacts, children who are identified as close contacts should be tested on Day 1 and Day 6 (if a PCR test) or 7 (if a RAT).

- If a positive test is returned, then your child will need to follow confirmed positive case guidelines.
- If your child shows any symptoms of COVID-19, they must be kept at home and get tested.

These arrangements will not apply to children who are **'household close contacts'** or who are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. Children who are classified as 'household close contacts' will need to isolate at home for 7 days.

Students are considered close contacts if they are:

- A household member with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period; or
- Someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, including:
 - At least 15 minutes face to face contact where a mask was not worn by the exposed person and the person with COVID-19; or
 - Greater than two hours within a small room or a classroom environment with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where masks have been removed for this period by the exposed person and the person with COVID-19 (note: others wearing masks in this scenario would not be a contact); or
 - Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

An asymptomatic person means they have no COVID-19 symptoms.

If a member of your household is COVID-19 positive, then the whole household are deemed household close contacts and the testing and isolation protocols apply. If your child is unwell, they should stay at home and get tested.



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As always, our priority is to continue face-to-face learning. If your child is required to isolate, we will provide them with learning to do at home. If your child's teacher is required to isolate, your child may have a different teacher for periods of time. In some cases, we may need to rearrange extra-curricular school activities to ensure our teachers are in classrooms teaching.

For more information on very high caseload protocols, visit wa.gov.au.

Once again, I have contextualised these new directions and what it means for Walliston Primary School.

- If you are unsure of the protocols around "Household Contact vs "Non-Household contact" please give me a call before sending your child to school.
- Please notify the school if your child receives a positive case. This will assist us with our communication to our school community.
- If a student is classified as a 'Non-Household" contact, they can still attend school but will not be able to attend any planned excursions or carnivals that are located off school site, due to isolation rules.
- Under the current guidelines, the school can still plan ahead to coordinate our Year 4-6 Swimming Carnival. Please note that we must follow Bilgoman Aquatic Centre COVID Guidelines in order to attend the centre for our swimming carnival. Further information about our swimming carnival will be provided in the near future.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 9291 2000.

Thank you for your understanding as we take the necessary steps to keep our school safe and open for learning. As always, I appreciate the support from our school community during these most challenging and constantly changing times.

Craig Mainard
Principal
10th March 2022