



COVID 19 Information Update - Belridge SC

Wednesday 18th March

Up until now we have been directing our community to the updates on the Department of Health website. We have been quietly, and sensibly, planning for many varied scenarios. Over the weekend the Federal Government has given directives that impact our operations and the following will apply for Belridge SC

At this stage our school will remain open for well students. This may change at any stage and we are preparing for possible closure. We ask that you notify the school if you are choosing to self-isolate or isolating because of a travel or medical risk factor.

Precautions

Hygiene

- Please keep your children home if they are sick.
- Promote good handwashing and monitor it before eating, after toileting, after keyboard use.
- Cough and sneeze? Elbow please.
- Encourage children to keep their hands away from their faces.
- Our cleaners and other staff will be working hard to ensure that our facilities are correctly and regularly cleaned.

Social Distancing

- No high fives, hugs, kisses or handshakes.
- Maintain a "Personal Bubble" of 1.5 metres wherever possible.
- Keep hands and feet to yourself during play.
- Events that will attract a large number of people sitting together will be cancelled or postponed.
- Non-essential meetings and gatherings will be postponed, e.g. camps, excursions, sports fixtures and assemblies.
- NAPLAN co-ordinated practice tests will go ahead online at present.

Well Being and Mental Health

- It is important that information about the current situation is provided to students in a developmentally appropriate and reassuring way.
- It is normal for children to feel anxious or sad in these situations and if social isolation is in place they will need support. Keep them connected with friends and family electronically.
- Smiling Minds and Mood Gym provide great support online.
- School Administration staff are available to talk to parents who have concerns.
- The Student Services team are available for students who have concerns.



Attendance

Parents are required to notify the school in regards to student absence via the school SMS system or a phone call. Absences will be recorded as follows:

- Students who are unwell and absent will be noted with the N code for Notified Sick.
- Students who have an identified risk factor for themselves or family members living at home that requires the need to self-isolate will be noted with an R for Reasonable excuse.
- At this stage, healthy children have not been advised to isolate by the Health Department will be marked X for Unacceptable reason.

I completely understand parents wishing to be cautious and if a school closure occurs, the code used for all students would be R.

Planning for School Closure

At this stage, it is not possible for students to have individual work packages organised if they are choosing to self-isolate. However, some teachers may already have their resources online.

If a school closure is announced we have the capacity, through Connect, to support a continued education via online learning. This may look different for different year groups.

With a view to forward planning, this is a good time to check connect access for your child account. If you need support in setting up your Connect account, please contact the school.

Communication

We will send this important message through Connect, Email and the Belridge SC Facebook page. Subsequent messages will be through Connect.

During this pandemic we are staying calm and supporting children and families in the best way that we can. I have a strong belief in the care and compassion throughout our wonderful community here at Belridge and I feel confident that we can get through these challenging times together.

Please read the regular updates posted by the Department of Health Chief Officer on the Department of Health Website or the Coronavirus Health Information Line **1800 020 080**.

https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

Yours sincerely

Sharon Lyon
Principal