



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update #21

Today you may have heard that Queensland Health have advised of two new cases of COVID-19. You can read details of one of these cases [here](#). The other case is a woman in her 70s from the Ipswich area. Contact tracing is currently underway for this woman and details will be released from [Queensland Health](#) in due course.

We thought it would be a good time to provide you with some FAQs to help explain why we currently take the measures we do to protect our Hillbrook community.

[Can you please explain why all family members are asked to stay away from school when someone is being tested?](#)

Everyone who lives in your home will be considered a 'close contact' if someone in your family tests positive to COVID-19. If we are able to minimise the number of 'close contacts' in the school, this can help reduce the amount of time we may be asked to close the school in the event of a positive case.

If there is a positive case in our community, it is likely we will be asked to close for contact tracing and a deep clean, however the timeframe may be minimised by having strict protocols in place to manage any outbreaks.

Our aim is to keep Hillbrook open and safe for staff and students and their families.

[Can you share the reason for asking COVID-19 questions each time we come to Hillbrook? Do you do this for every visitor to the school?](#)

This information is required for contact tracing. Again, while we are not a restaurant or café, we are taking these precautions to minimise the length of time we might be asked to close should we have a positive case.

Yes, we do this for all visitors at Hillbrook. We also take the temperature of every visitor, along with all staff members each day. We have limited the number of external visitors to Hillbrook to those required for essential purposes only.

We expect these practices to continue for the remainder of 2020.



If my child only has a head cold, and I don't think it could be COVID, do they need to get tested?

If your child has any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, fatigue and loss of smell and/or taste) you are required to contact your GP or 1300 HEALTH and let them make the decision on whether testing is required. As we are learning during this pandemic, regular testing is effective in limiting the spread during an outbreak.

If your child simply has a headache or sinus etc, you should keep them home until they are well, but you are not required to consult with your GP, unless you feel the need to.

We are wondering why some events/excursions are going ahead and not others?

We have a WHS COVID-19 Committee who meet every Monday morning to discuss all upcoming events, including Camps, Excursions, Staff Professional Development, visitors to Hillbrook and other events such as Family Day, Celebration Evening, Graduation Dinner and the Year 12 Formal.

Before an event is approved, the Committee looks at the current active COVID-19 case situation in Queensland and Australia, along with the location of the event, the provider's COVID Safe Plan, who is involved and who our staff and students are likely to come into contact with. The risk is then assessed using this information and if it is considered safe and an essential curriculum based activity, we have been allowing certain events to go ahead.

For these reasons, our Year 7, 2023 interviews are currently being conducted via Zoom as a measure to reduce the number of people coming into the school, and the possible spread of infection.

There are still many future events yet to be finalised. Obviously, they won't be the same format as previous years, however we are working on how they might be possible in some way. Again, this is an ever-changing situation and we will be making decisions on a week by week basis. Unfortunately, due to the evolving nature of COVID-19 this could mean last minute cancellations may occur as well as short notice prior to an event.



If my child is feeling anxious about COVID-19, who should they talk to for some reassurance?

Please contact your child's Home Class Teacher who will pass the information onto the Student Wellbeing Team. They will be able to reassure your child of all the processes we have in place to keep staff and students safe.

As a reminder, we have an emergency supply of masks if required, and we also have hand sanitiser available in every classroom and at various other locations around the school. We also have a daily cleaner regularly disinfecting common touch points such as hand rails, taps, bubblers, door handles etc. All students are required to sanitise their hands prior to entering a classroom and desks are cleaned at the end of each lesson.

We are all navigating a global pandemic for the first time in our lives and, despite the uncertainty, it has made us all more adaptable and accepting. We will always try and keep you updated well in advance, however sometimes this may be out of our control as our actions/responses may be as a result of Queensland Government Coronavirus Updates or Health Alerts.

We hope this email helps to answer any questions you may have. If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask by replying to this email.

Take care and stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

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School Leadership Team