Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Advice for schools about self-isolation requirement

When a child attends school within 14 days of arrival from mainland China:

The risk of infection with novel coronavirus for other students and staff at the school is very low. Novel coronavirus is spread from person to person through close contact with an infected person or through contact with droplets from an infected person’s cough or sneeze.

There is no requirement for any other students or staff at the school to be isolated because of being in contact with the student.

What to do if a student attends school within 14 days of arrival from mainland China:

1) Place the student in an isolated room as soon as possible.
2) Hand a surgical mask to the student, if available, and ask them to put this on.
3) Maintain a distance of one metre (arm’s length) from the student
4) Contact the parent or guardian of the student and ask them to pick up the student as soon as possible and return them to their home.
5) The student should remain isolated at home for 14 days from when they left mainland China.

Staff and student should exercise general precautions, such as:

- Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel;
- Refraining from touching mouth and nose;
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow. Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene; and
- Avoiding close contact with anyone who has a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).

The Department of Health has updated information on their website including frequently asked questions about the novel coronavirus. To view this information you can visit

healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus

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