

31 January 2020

Dear parent/carer

Acting on the latest information re novel coronavirus from the Department of Health, the Department of Education is implementing the following for public schools.

**Students who have been in the Hubei Province of China**

Students who have been in the Hubei Province of China must be isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving the Hubei Province, other than for seeking individual medical care. They are not able to attend school, school events, day care centres or residential colleges. This also applies to parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites and at school events.

Parents/carers should notify their school that the student will be away for the isolation period and confirm the date in which they were last in the Hubei Province of China.

**Students who have returned from (including travelled through) mainland China (excluding the Hubei Province) or Hong Kong**

Students who have returned from (including travelled through) mainland China (excluding the Hubei Province) or Hong Kong are being asked to stay at home until 14 days after leaving mainland China or Hong Kong.

While the risk of the virus spreading is low, this 14 day exclusion is a precaution to ensure the safest possible environment for children. After 14 days, if the student has no symptoms they may attend school.

Parents/carers should notify their school that the student will be away for the exclusion period, and confirm the date in which they were last in mainland China or Hong Kong.

**Students in close contact with a confirmed case**

If a student has been informed by Public Health authorities they are a close contact of a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus, irrespective of whether they have developed symptoms, they cannot attend school, school events, day care centres or residential colleges until their local public health unit informs them that it is safe for them to do so. This also applies to parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites and at school events.

Parents/carers should notify their school, and evidence from the public health authority is required for the student to return to school.

The [Department of Health website](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus) at <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus> has more information on the virus and a **WA Coronavirus Hotline, on 1800 300 243.**

If your child will be away from school for the reasons outlined above, please contact the school to let us know when they were last in China and to discuss any support for your child's learning while they are absent from school.

Yours sincerely

Linda Knox