

3rd June 2020

The following is an update for Gold Coast Principals to assist with COVID-19 management.

Gold Coast Public Health Unit - hours of operation

Our opening hours will be 8am-6pm, 7 days a week from 8th June 2020.

Advice for parents of children with symptoms of concern to the school

The Chief Health Officer has issued the following **School and Early Childhood Service Exclusion Direction** for managing people with contagious illness at a school or early childcare setting:

If an educator or staff member suspects a child in their care is unwell with a contagious illness they must notify the parent or guardian. The parent or guardian must collect the child as soon as possible, and the child must not return to the school or early childhood service until they are well or enough time has passed that they are not contagious.

The Chief Health Officer has made a specific direction during this Covid19 public health emergency. The link to the full direction is <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/school-and-early-childhood-service-exclusion-direction>

This makes it clear that if the principal, or a person designated by the principal for this purpose, determines that there is a reasonable suspicion a child is unwell, the child must be removed from the school. We would recommend the child be taken out of the classroom and the parent or guardian contacted to collect the child. The link above give full details and details of when the child may return to the school. We are aware that this process is stressful and individual scenarios are difficult to assess.

If a student / staff member has symptoms, we recommend they:

- Do not come to school - isolate at home and seek appropriate medical assessment
- If symptoms are detected at school, follow the directions above
- Get a COVID-19 test, and remain in isolation until the results are received
- Practice good hand hygiene and sneeze/cough etiquette
- Do not return to school until acute symptoms have resolved.

We are grateful for your continued support. Working together is the most effective way for us to continue to protect our community.

Kind regards

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