

Sunday 15 March 2020

Updated Information Concerning Novel Coronavirus

Dear Staff,

On 15 March, there has been further addition to the measures that the Australian Government is taking to protect the community against novel coronavirus.

As a result of the continuing increase in the number of cases worldwide and additional high risk countries being identified, Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the Australian Government has advised that as of midnight tonight anyone arriving in Australia from overseas will be forced to self-isolate for 14 days as an external control measure.

Therefore we ask that any children, parents or staff members returning from overseas to self-isolate for 14 days as per the Australian Government quarantine announcement.

In addition to the measures that the Australian Government is taking to protect the community against novel coronavirus you can be assured that Busy Bees have been preparing to act should the need arise and we will work closely with managing our response and our actions if required.

While the extent of cases in Australia is not as widespread as other countries, we believe this continued precautionary action is needed as the safety and wellbeing of the staff, children, and the wider community associated with our service is paramount.

We have developed a set of FAQ's for your reference and if you have any questions or concerns please speak with your Service Manager or email covid-19@busybees.edu.au. If you have concerns you may have been exposed to the virus, the public health advice is to contact your GP immediately and self-isolate.

Family Frequently Asked Questions - Covid-19

Covid-19 Awareness

- On 30 January 2020, the [World Health Organization](#) declared the coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
- On 27 February 2020, the Prime Minister announced the activation of the '[Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)'.

- Coronavirus Quiz <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/novel-coronavirus-quiz>

What are the symptoms of Covid-19 (Coronavirus)?

- A high temperature (fever), a cough and shortness of breath however, these are common symptoms of other illnesses such as cold and flu. Having these symptoms does not necessarily mean you have Covid-19.

What is Busy Bees doing to manage the risk?

- We are monitoring all updates and following the required recommendations and guidance from the Australian Government - Department of Health.
- As a global organisation we regularly speak to our colleagues from around the World and have utilised this experience to review our internal procedures to help us best manage the current risk in line with the Australian Government - Department of Health.

Close contact with a confirmed case (including family members who reside in the same household) to not attend our centres?

- We do not know exactly how Coronavirus is spread from person to person, but similar viruses are spread through cough droplets. Persons who have close contact with people who have the virus are at greater risk of catching it. When considering the risk from those who may have travelled to affected areas, we also consider partners and those who reside in the same house as also possibly having the virus even though they may not have travelled themselves.

What if staff are intending on travelling abroad soon?

- Any travel overseas that is planned by a staff member (whether for business or personal) is required to be discussed with the employees line manager prior to undertaking travel and a travel register must be completed before their return to the centre.
- Busy Bees has advised all employees that travel anywhere overseas will be forced to self-isolate for 14 days.
- At a domestic level, Busy Bess is minimising all staff travel to essential critical operational travel only with an aim to minimise the possibility of exposure. Busy Bees will continue to monitor our position on staff travel



Is Busy Bees advice different to that of the Australian Government – Department of Health?

- No, our advice is in line with guidance from the Australian Government – Department of Health. We take safety very seriously and we are working hard to minimise the risk to our staff and the children in our care. We would ask that staff, parents and families work with us to reduce the risk to everyone at Busy Bees.

Why are schools or other businesses shutting in our community and we are not?

- The risk to individual organisations and premises will vary depending on several factors and many businesses are taking steps to manage the risk. A closure may not definitively mean a positive case of Covid-19 has been confirmed, it may just be unviable to stay open if key personnel are being asked to stay at home due to travel to affected areas.
- A confirmed case of Covid-19 in a nearby location may not put you at any greater risk unless you have come into contact with the individual. The Australian Government – Department of Health Authorities are working hard to trace contacts from those that have been confirmed with the virus, so if you have not been contacted as part of this process, try not to worry.

For the latest on the coronavirus please refer to the following Australian Government website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Coronavirus Factsheets issued by the Australian Government’s Department of Education can be found at this link: <https://education.govcms.gov.au/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in relation to this important matter.

Warm regards

Robert Hughes
Chief Executive Officer