



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Merbein

Reg. No. 1277

14th August, 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

In order to support community awareness of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and to help identify children displaying symptoms, it has been recommended that all schools commence temperature screening of students while the stay at home restrictions are in place. This is an important public health measure to promote awareness of symptoms associated with COVID-19 and to ensure that unwell students remain at home.

Starting Monday, the 17th of August, students completing their remote learning onsite will receive a temperature screen every morning before starting school while the stay at home restrictions are in place. Written consent for temperature screening is **not** required as the process is non-intrusive.

Students entering the school grounds will be met at the sliding gate by a staff member who will conduct the temperature screening. The staff member will follow the **Temperature thresholds and required actions** table. A student whose temperature is within the acceptable range will be permitted entry to the school grounds. If it is outside the acceptable range the student will wait in a separate room for a secondary screen. If a student records a temperature outside of the recommended range for a second time, they will be sent home.

OLSH will continue to follow the protocols in place for morning drop off that are already in place to reduce the number of adults accessing the school grounds. OLSH will continue to implement physical distancing measures for staff at school, maintain increased cleaning/sanitising procedures and maintain personal hygiene practices for all students and staff.

If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Narelle Gallagher,
Principal.

Rationale for Temperature Screening

- Temperature screening can be used during a pandemic to identify the presence of fever in an individual. Fever, while not present in all cases, is a common symptom of COVID-19.
- Temperature measurements in the context of a holistic assessment may help schools to decide if a child should return home.
- Temperature screening will be conducted using non-contact infrared thermometers where possible.
- Temperature screening as a public health measure in schools will support the identification of unwell children. Temperature screening does not replace the need for other important public health measures such as hand hygiene, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection.
- The most important action that staff, students and families can take is to ensure that unwell staff and students remain at home.

Temperature thresholds and required actions

Temperature reading	Required action
Less than 37.5° C	The student should be advised to proceed to class.
Equal to or greater than 37.5° C on first reading	The student should be asked to wait in a separate room and have their temperature re-checked in 15 minutes. If the student is wearing outerwear, the staff member should suggest the child remove this once they are indoors.
Equal to or greater than 37.5° C on second reading	The student should return home with their parent/carer. If a parent/carer is not present, the student will need to be isolated and the parent/carer contacted to collect them from school as soon as possible. Families should be encouraged to seek the advice of their healthcare professional who can advise on next steps and COVID-19 testing.