

17th July, 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

In order to support community awareness of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and to help identify children displaying symptoms, all schools located in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) and to ensure that unwell students remain at home.

Temperature screening at schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire

As above, all students at schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will receive a temperature screen every morning before starting school while the Stay at Home restrictions are in place. The temperature screening will be conducted using non-contact infrared thermometers. Written consent is not required as the process is non-intrusive.

Temperature screening can be used during a pandemic to identify the presence of a fever in an individual. A fever, whilst not present in all cases, is a common symptom of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Temperature measurements in the context of a holistic assessment may help schools and early childhood centres to decide if a child is unwell and should return home.

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, children and families can take is to ensure that if you are feeling unwell, even in the absence of a fever, **you should stay at home.**

Temperature thresholds and required actions

TEMPERATURE READING	REQUIRED ACTION
Less than 37.5°	Student advised to proceed to class.
Equal to or greater than 37.5° 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° on second reading	The student should return home with their parent/carer. If the 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 the next steps and coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

A fever will be classified as a temperature reading at or above 37.5° Celsius

Please note: If a person has a temperature of 37.5° or above on screening, they must be collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible to seek the advice of their healthcare professional.

Two teachers will be stationed at the front gates of the school between 8.30am and 8.45am to administer temperature screening of students with non-contact infrared thermometers. The teachers will be wearing masks for safety measures and the temperature devices will be cleaned and disinfected at the completion of the day's screening.

I encourage you to have a discussion with your child about the temperature screening process that will be conducted at school from Monday, 20th July to ease any worries or concerns that your child may have about temperature checks. The attached document may assist you with the discussion with your child.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Kind regards

Lisa Grgic
ACTING PRINCIPAL

