18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

COVID-19 Update
As the situation in regard to COVID-19 continues to evolve, I am writing to update parents and caregivers about the measures we are taking at Loxton High School to safeguard all members of our school community and to act responsibly to limit the spread of the virus. All of our actions have been based on directions and advice from the Department for Education and from SA Health.

We wish to share the advice and actions outlined below.

Current advice on self-isolation and staying at home
In line with Commonwealth advice, people are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days if:

- diagnosed with COVID-19
- have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- have arrived from overseas travel from any country (as of midnight Sunday, 15 March 2020).

Stay home if sick
- It is important that all students and staff, if unwell, stay at home and recover to avoid the spread of winter illnesses (not just COVID-19). Now is not the time to soldier on. Please notify the school of any absences via email dl.0895.info@schools.sa.edu.au or phone 8584 7339.
- Similarly, if a student becomes unwell with flu-like symptoms while in school care, their parents/carers will be contacted immediately, and infection control practices will be enacted.

Social distancing
This morning the Federal Government announced further measures in regard to social distancing. The following must be implemented immediately:

- All indoor gatherings of 100 persons or greater to be cancelled.
- All outdoor gatherings of 500 persons or greater to be cancelled.

To lower the chance of spreading the virus, where possible we have adopted practical social distancing measures by postponing or cancelling a number of school events, including our Sports Day and Continental. Yesterday, the Riverland Secondary Principals agreed to also postpone the Riverland Interschool athletics competition.

Schools will remain open
The advice from Australia’s Chief Medical Officer and Prime Minister, on Wednesday 18 March, is that schools will remain open.

Individual sites will only be temporarily closed if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19. We will then follow our protocol in line with SA Health.
Loxton High School currently has the following procedures in place:

- School assemblies are postponed until further notice
- As of Monday 23 March school camps and excursion are postponed until further notice
- Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews will be conducted by email or telephone (more information to come soon)

To help with social distancing, hand washing and reducing the volume of students at the canteen:

- Year 8 and 9 students are going to recess 5 minutes early
- Year 10 and 11 students are going to lunch 5 minutes early

Students are regularly reminded via daily bulletins and teachers to:

- wash and dry their hands often (foam or liquid soap is available in all toilets/change rooms).
- cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze - with a tissue or into the crook of the elbow - then wash hands.
- avoid touching face, mouth or nose.

At this stage, breakfast programs will continue to operate.

These arrangements remain in place until further notice. Things are moving quickly.

More information
The Department for Education is working closely with SA Health to ensure we have access to the latest advice on how to keep our staff, our students and community safe. If you have questions about actions we are taking as a school, you are welcome to contact a member of the school’s Executive Team via the Front Office on 8584 7339. For other questions about COVID-19 you can call the government’s coronavirus health information line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We are committed to providing you with regular updates so you are as informed as possible.

Yours faithfully

DAVID GARRETT
PRINCIPAL