



This information has been provided by the WA Department of Education

Lynwood Senior High School is one of 80 public schools, education support settings and residential colleges taking part in “DETECT Schools Study - Assessing COVID-19 Across Western Australian Schools”.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the way we live. With the rates of COVID-19 in Western Australia (WA) remaining low, we are at a critical point where the Government is working hard on how to get things back to normal, as safely and as quickly, as we can.

One thing we don't know much about, is the rates of COVID-19 in those who may not have any symptoms (asymptomatic). As part of a larger community study to determine the occurrence of COVID-19 in people without symptoms in WA, the WA Education and Health Departments, in partnership with Telethon Kids Institute, are undertaking a research study in schools. The study will help us answer three main questions:

1. Is there any undetected COVID-19 infection in school students and staff (without symptoms)?
2. Do students and staff at schools play a role in spreading COVID-19, if we find it?
3. How are school staff, students, and their families coping during this challenging time? Is their wellbeing impacted?

It is hoped the DETECT Schools Study will assist in making an even stronger evidence-base for the WA (and Australian) Government to make the best policy decisions they can, and to provide the support to schools and families that they need.

Our students and staff will be invited to participate in the COVID-19 testing and students, parents and staff will be invited to complete the survey. Participation is voluntary and you will be asked for consent for you or your child to participate.

The testing will be done at school and involves a gentle nose and throat swab. It is a safe test and does not cause any discomfort to those who participate. Visit https://youtu.be/hD_9rlGuxcM to see how the testing is done. The survey will be done online. The research team have also developed survey questions that are suitable for different age groups and to help understand some of the experience for children, families and teachers during the COVID-19 restrictions.

We will be working with the research team to ensure there is minimal disruption to teaching and learning for those who participate.

By participating in this research, our school community will help the Government understand if there is any COVID-19 in WA schools and what measures are needed to support our community.

Further details have been sent to parents/carers and staff.