



Dear Parents and Carers

Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19 Update

The closure of a government school in Sydney late last week has focussed attention on the responses and preparedness of schools regarding the outbreak of this virus and I want to take this opportunity to give you an update on our plans and preparations.

1. Isolation Requirements

In accordance with Government guidelines self-isolation must be adopted in particular situations. At the date of this letter, 9 March, you must isolate yourself in the following circumstances:

- If you have left, or transited through mainland China or Iran in the last 14 days, you must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of leaving mainland China/Iran.
- If you have left, or transited through the Republic of Korea on or after 5 March 2020 you must isolate yourself for 14 days after the date of leaving the Republic of Korea.
- If you have been in close contact with a proven case of coronavirus, you must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

Travellers from Italy must present for health screening upon arrival in Australia, as directed at the border.

Updated information on travel restrictions and isolation requirements are available on the Australian Government's website here - <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>.

We continue to expect that all parents and carers within the School community will ensure that they are aware of and comply with these requirements.

When students are subject to isolation arrangements, we will work with you to ensure that they are provided with learning resources and materials to assist them in maintaining their studies.

2. Good Hygiene Practices

Within the School we have taken steps to increase the awareness of appropriate good hygiene practices to protect against infections. Good hygiene includes:

- washing your hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet,
- covering your cough and sneeze, disposing of tissues, and using alcohol-based hand sanitiser, and
- if unwell, avoiding contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people).

Surgical masks are only helpful in preventing people who have coronavirus disease from spreading it to others and are generally not recommended.

We hope that you will reinforce these good hygiene practices at home with your children.

3. Exclusion of students with COVID-19 Symptoms

The symptoms of Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19 can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover easily, and others may get very sick very quickly. People with Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19 may experience:

- fever
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue
- shortness of breath

Of course, **students who are unwell for any reason should not be sent to school.**

In addition, where students exhibit the symptoms mentioned above and they, or a family member with whom they have had close contact, has returned less than 14 days previously from a 'Higher' or 'Moderate' risk country they should be isolated and seek medical advice. The 'Higher' and 'Moderate' risk countries currently include:

- Mainland China
- Iran
- Italy
- Republic of Korea
- Cambodia
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Singapore
- Thailand

4. Ongoing planning and risk assessment

In addition to the responses outlined above the School is continuing to monitor advice from the Commonwealth and [State / Territory] Governments. This advice is informing ongoing risk assessments being conducted in relation to School activities and operations, including whole school activities such as sporting carnivals and offsite activities such as camps and excursions.

We are also reviewing and updating contingency plans to respond to a wide range of possible scenarios that may occur as a result of this outbreak. We will continue to keep you updated if there is significant changes or new developments, but do encourage all parents and carers to remain informed themselves of the latest Government advice.

Yours sincerely,

Marcel Rijken, Principal