



Dear Parents and Carers

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – New Government Measures

The Prime Minister announced Sunday afternoon, following a meeting with all Premiers and Chief Ministers, that all those arriving from overseas from midnight on 15 March will be required to self-isolate for two weeks.

These measures expand those previously in place only in relation to certain countries advised to you previously.

Updated information on travel restrictions and isolation requirements are available on the Australian Government's website below:

<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 Government requirements.

Isolation is also required for those who have had contact with somebody with COVID-19. A contact is spending more than 15 minutes face-to-face with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or sharing a closed space for more than 2 hours with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. This includes having this type of contact with the person 24 hours before they became ill.

Please refer to the symptom checker tool at <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus>

School closures were considered by the recent meeting but, at this stage, not considered to be prudent. The Government has advised, however, in the light of the development of the outbreak, that organised, non-essential gatherings should be limited to 500 people.

As a School leadership we have taken the view that it is appropriate, in the light of this revised guidance, to minimise larger gatherings within the School community and have since postponed our annual Open Evening scheduled for 19th March 2020.

Other activities, including smaller group excursions, will continue, subject to a specific risk assessment for each event. We understand, however, that some parents make wish to withdraw their children from these activities and you are certainly free to do so. Of course, if you child is unwell, we would expect that they are excluded as normal.

We will continue to keep you updated if there are significant changes or new developments, but do encourage all parents and carers to remain personally informed themselves of the latest Government advice.

Yours sincerely,
Marcel Rijken, Principal
16 March 2020