

Temple Christian College

23 March 2020

Dear parent/caregiver,

Please find below the latest OFFICIAL notice from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment that features relevant information for schools.

Information for schools

The outdoor and indoor gathering restrictions announced by the Australian Government do not apply to schools. However, schools should implement other social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- If your child is sick, do not send them to school (or childcare)
- Sanitise hands when entering school and at regular intervals
- Defer activities that lead to mixing between classes and years
- Avoid queuing and consider cancelling school assemblies
- Promote a regular handwashing schedule
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly
- Conduct lessons outdoors where possible
- Consider opening windows and adjusting conditioning for more ventilation
- Promote strictest hygiene among food preparation (canteen) staff and their close contact

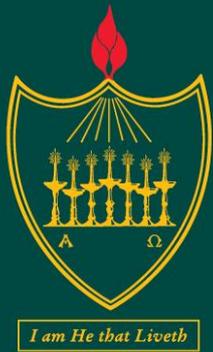
Students and staff must self-isolate for 14 days if they are returning from overseas travel or have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. They must not attend school during this isolation period.

Please see the Department of Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources for more information about social distancing and self-isolation.

Schools (both government and non-government) are encouraged to contact their respective state and territory education authority regarding:

- all proposed closures
- staff and students in self-isolation
- changes to travel plans for staff and students
- any changes to operating practices arising from their response to COVID-19.

Decisions to close schools are a matter for the relevant education authorities (state and territory governments for government schools, school systems where relevant, and individual independent schools). This decision is to be made on the basis of the best medical advice, and medical advice that is directly relevant to the specific circumstances of the particular school.



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Schools are already making sensible changes to the way they operate and putting social distancing measures in place.

Closing schools prematurely may make containment at this stage more difficult. The option for grandparents or elderly relatives who are not working to look after students might have adverse health outcomes, given older people are typically at higher risk of COVID-19 than younger people. It could also impact the workforce participation of health care workers at this time.

The AHPPC will review their advice daily.

Information about NAPLAN

Education Ministers met on 20 March 2020 and decided that NAPLAN will not proceed in 2020. The NAPLAN test window was scheduled to be held from 12 to 22 May.

The decision to not proceed with NAPLAN in 2020 has been taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, including potential online and remote learning. Further, the impact of responses to the COVID-19 virus may affect the delivery of NAPLAN testing, including the operation of centralised marking centres and the implications for nationally comparable data if an insufficient number of students are available to do the test.

Further detail regarding this decision is available.

Further health information applicable to schools and early childhood centres please see:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for schools and early childhood education and care services, students and parents](#)

For further health advice please visit the [Department of Health website](#).

For further information on travel restrictions please visit the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

**Notice released by
Communication Team
Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment
21/3/2020**