



Monday, 9 March 2020

Dear College Families,

Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19 Update

Firstly, I wish to thank families in our College community who have acted with honesty and integrity by informing the College of overseas travel and have chosen to self-quarantine in accordance with Australia's health guidelines. We are very pleased that we have not had any opportunity for concern in this regard.

We understand the concern that each of you may be feeling during this period of uncertainty and I want to thank each of you for your responsiveness to our updates. I am comforted at this time by the knowledge that God knows what is occurring and that God cares.

1 Peter 5:7 says "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." Please join me in prayer in asking for God's intervention to stop the spread of this virus.

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

We have previously indicated to the College community that, in accordance with Government guidelines self-isolation must be adopted in particular situations. At the date of this letter, 9 March 2020, 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 College 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. We are currently developing strategies to provide sustained ongoing support to larger groups of students should this become necessary.

2. Good Hygiene Practices

Within the College 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 (staying more than 1.5 metres from people).

We ask that you partner with us in reinforcing these good hygiene practices at home with your children.



Please note, that hand sanitiser dispensers will shortly be placed at key points across the College Campus, including in the breezeway, in all classrooms, in the entry of ELC and OSHC centres and outside the canteen. We ask that all members of the College community make use of these facilities as much as is practicably possible.

Across the College students will be reminded regularly of thorough hand washing techniques and other good hygiene protocols that reduce the likelihood of the spread of infection. We would also like to advise you that the College has sought and received assurances from the College's cleaning company that their processes are suitable to protect students and staff in our care.

In addition to these measures we are also ensuring that hand sanitiser dispensers are available on all College buses. Students boarding the buses in the morning will be required to utilise these dispensers. Then, at the conclusion of the morning bus run College bus surfaces will be wiped with a suitable disinfectant.

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, have 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 College is continuing to monitor advice from the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. This advice is informing ongoing risk assessments being conducted in relation to College 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.

5. Camps (Year 5 - Year 12)

Current advice from NSW Health is that schools should continue to engage in formal planned school activities. If this situation changes at any stage into the future schools will be provided with specific advice. In keeping with this advice all College camps that are scheduled for this week will continue as planned but with increased vigilance around hygiene, handwashing and other health protocols to prevent the spread of cold and flu.

Please be assured that as per the College's Excursion and Incursion Policy and Guidelines a comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted prior to the finalisation of all camp planning. These risk assessments have taken into account updates provided by NSW Health.

In response to these risk assessments it was determined that:

- First aid kits sent on camps will include hand sanitiser, masks and thermometers;
- Camp providers be contacted by relevant College staff to ascertain the infection control measures being taken by providers and that this advice be provided to parents, and;

- If a student or staff member becomes unwell during camp they are to be immediately isolated. As per the College's Medical Policy and Guidelines parents will then be required to collect the student and advised to visit their GP. Unwell staff members will be required to leave the camp and will be advised to visit their GP also.

Further information relating to your child's specific camp will be sent from each Camp Director today.

6. In the Event of a School Closure

If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, the College will be notified by NSW Health. The public health unit will then provide information to the College about the appropriate response including whether or not the College should be closed. The College will adhere to this advice. The College is currently working through a range of processes to enact should it be required to close by NSW Health but briefly, please note that if this situation eventuates, the College will ensure continuity of learning for K-12 students by providing learning opportunities online.

7. More Information

You can access the updated fact sheets on the Australian Govt. Dept. Of Education [website](#).

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

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

Thank you again for your responsiveness and attention to this matter.

Kind regards,



Felicity Marlow
Principal