



Dear Emmaus families,

Re: COVID-19 (coronavirus) update #3

I am writing to update you on the latest information and precautions surrounding COVID-19 (coronavirus) and our school response plan.

Until further notice and advice, we are open to all students who have not recently travelled overseas, who are not experiencing cold or flu symptoms and who have not been in contact with anyone in these categories.

In addition, I ask everyone to adhere to the SA Health Department's advice regarding social distance and adopting strict hygiene practices, including thorough washing of hands, safe use and disposal of tissues and coughing/sneezing into the crook of the elbow. Posters to this effect are displayed around the school.

Current school precautions

Our current approach is informed by directives from both Federal and State Governments, as well as Catholic Education SA.

- As is our usual practice, we ask students not to share drink bottles or food.
- We have cancelled events, excursions, assemblies, co-curricular activities (including training, matches and rehearsals) and camps until further notice. **SPORTS DAY will be postponed until later in the year.**
- Staff and students are receiving regular communication and training on personal hygiene measures. All classes have direct access to hand washing facilities and they have been issued liquid soap dispensers. Thorough hand washing is still considered a more effective preventative measure than hand sanitiser.
- The school is being cleaned thoroughly every day especially flat surfaces such as desks, benches, doors, handles etc.
- Volunteers – are asked not to come in until further notice. This will extend to listening to reading in the JP classes and selling ice blocks.
- All committee meetings will be suspended until further notice.

If your child is unwell – or if you are unwell

- Students and staff must not attend school if they or someone in their household is being tested for or has been diagnosed with COVID-19. **Please alert the school immediately in this situation.**
- If your child is unwell, they should not come to school.
- Those who have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days after last contact with the confirmed case.
- If you are uncomfortable sending your child to school at any time, please notify us (class teacher or myself) as soon as possible so we can ensure that there is some home learning for your child to go on with.

*A community on a journey with Jesus.
Connected in faith, learning, justice and love.*

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school

If we are advised by authorities of a confirmed case of COVID-19, or of the necessity for a forced closure, then the school will be required to close as soon as practicable. Students will need to be collected immediately from school.

Our process of communication will be as follows:

- School closure advised via SMS and email sent to parents / caregivers.
- The school will close as quickly as possible and we ask that all students are picked up promptly.
- **After school care will not be available.**

Continuity of learning (in the short or longer term)

Schools will be preparing for a number of eventualities around closure. The current experience is that a school closes for a day or two whilst it is being cleaned after a COVID-19 case. However, students in isolation will be away from school for two weeks and their learning needs to continue in some fashion. Class teachers are the best contact for families making the decision to keep their child/ren home.

In addition, the current rhetoric of the Government is that Australian schools will remain open, rather than match the experience overseas which is large scale system shutdown. However, we are working on plans in case schools need to close for a period of time.

Services available

The National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

The Australian Government also publishes a daily alert with latest medical advice and official reports, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

If you or your child is experiencing anxiety or other mental health challenges regarding the coronavirus, Beyond Blue has set up a dedicated guide for this purpose:

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Michael Carr Gregg also provides some advice on how to talk about COVID-19 with your child https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus

School Queries

If you have any questions, please email me or your child's teacher.

Please stay informed by regularly checking for further email updates from our school. We also recommend the following sources for COVID-19 news related to Catholic Schools in SA

The CESA website Alerts page - <https://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/alerts>

The CESA facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicEducationSA/>

I ask that we all remain calm and committed to the health, safety and learning of our students as we positively support each other in these challenging times.



Principal

Tuesday 17 March 2020