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Dear Emmaus families,

Re: COVID-19 (coronavirus) update #4

Just to keep you posted, here is the latest COVID-19 advice as it affects our Emmaus school community:

Emmaus will remain open until advised differently

All Catholic schools are adhering to the Australian Government's advice to remain open. While there continues to be debate regarding school closures to minimise the spread of COVID-19, there is agreement by the government and Australia's chief Medical Officer, that this is currently the best course of action.

The Catholic sector is monitoring and responding quickly to the advice of federal, state and territory governments and medical authorities as the situation develops.

Should it become necessary for schools to close in some states or territories, or across Australia, our school will follow directions given and seek to minimise the impact on student learning as much as possible.

OSHC service

As long as our school is open, our OSHC programme will be available for families. At this stage we are planning on providing Vacation Care through the upcoming April holidays and the programme for this will go home tomorrow. In keeping with CESA COVID-19 preventative measures, there will be no excursions offered during this holiday period. If however the school is officially closed, for 24 hours or for a longer period, the OSHC service will NOT be available.

Finances

We understand that this is a stressful time for students and their families. Compounding stress for some families is the loss of income due to the impact of the coronavirus. Please be assured that fee remission and discounts will be offered to any and all families that need support. Everyone belongs at Emmaus and enrolment at our school is available to all who share our values. We will work with families to ensure fees are not an imposition.

Social Distancing

You may be aware that non-essential indoor gatherings of greater than 100 people (including staff) will no longer be permitted from Wednesday 18 March 2020. We are already complying with this as there are no whole school, indoor activities happening presently, in our school.

Outdoor gatherings, should be less than 500 people. As a small school, we do not need to stagger breaks to spread students out as we have relatively small student cohort and we have lots of space for students to play in.

Stay up to date

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/>

This is an uncertain time for all of us and I appreciate everything you are all doing to keep your families safe and to stay informed. I am here as are our teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Gurr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Catherine Gurr
Principal

18th March 2020