

13 March 2020

To: All Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is of primary concern and I wanted to provide you with an update in relation to COVID-19 as the situation continues to unfold.

Since January, we have been liaising with the relevant authorities, including NSW Health and Catholic Schools NSW, and will continue to do so. We rely on balanced and verified information from the Government and I encourage parents, carers and students to do the same.

Reducing the spread of infection

To reduce the spread of infection, we encourage you to keep your children home if they are unwell.

It is imperative to emphasise good hygiene, in particular hand washing which is credited as the most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

Travel and events

Many of you will be aware of the travel restrictions introduced by the [Australian Government](#), including isolation periods already in place for a number of countries. With holidays coming up, I encourage all parents to review the [Smart Traveller](#) website for the most up-to-date information.

Our schools have a range of events on the horizon and we will continue our usual risk profiling of these activities. Some school programs, particularly those that involve visiting or volunteering with the elderly, may be temporarily suspended to reduce the risk of transmission. To-date, there has been no advice that schools should cancel or discontinue planned school activities however there may be occasions where activities will be postponed or modified.

We will also be carefully assessing any non-essential travel and, in case of cancellation, will be notifying affected parents, carers and students.

We appreciate the situation is concerning but we are doing everything we can to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. We have a team of senior leaders from the Diocese meeting regularly to discuss our response, to ensure we have the latest information from the relevant authorities, and to ensure our framework for learning continuity is in place.

I am committed to providing regular information and will provide an update on further activity as COVID-19 continues to evolve. Your concerns and questions are always welcome and I ask you, at an initial point, to speak with your school Principal.

Yours sincerely

Gerard Mowbray
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

