

St Anthony's School
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware from the frequent amendments to health and travel advice, our Federal and State authorities are focused on minimising and preventing transmission of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus.

While we are reminded that the risk of transmission in Australia remains low, the escalation in confirmed cases around the world, combined with the uncertainty surrounding the spread of the virus, is rightly creating concern for many in our communities.

Considering the need for increasing preventative and precautionary measures, and the changing travel advice to mitigate transmission, there is much potential for misinformation. As such, we felt it timely to again communicate how we are monitoring and responding to COVID-19.

PERSONAL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

While the advice regarding travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements for students and staff continues to evolve, the following outline is intended to provide some clarity and certainty – particularly as families consider their plans for the upcoming school holidays. As such, the following advice is provided for parents/carers and staff:

- Parents/Carers and staff who are considering personal international travel are asked to refer to the Department of Health and Smart Traveller websites to ensure they are aware of current travel restrictions and advice prior to embarking on their travels. These sites should also be checked regularly prior to their return to Australia as the information changes regularly.

- The Australian Government continues to monitor international public health information and may amend travel restrictions, health screening and self-quarantine requirements. **Parents/Carers and staff who undertake personal international travel are asked to consider their preparedness to self-quarantine for 14 days following their arrival in Australia should this be required.**

Currently, students or staff who have travelled to or transited through other countries (excluding China, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea) can attend school. **If students or staff display symptoms, they should self-isolate, seek medical advice and contact the school.**

*****Students, community members and staff who have travelled through China, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea must self-isolate for fourteen days.***

Travel planning

To support the school's preparedness and response planning, particularly as the April school holidays approach, I request that **families inform us of any upcoming international travel plans**. This includes plans to transit through countries identified as moderate to high risk. These need to be emailed at least one week prior to departure to admin@stanthonyswann.wa.edu.au

SCHOOL EVENTS

To date, schools have neither been advised nor directed to cancel any school related events involving mass gatherings.

However, we ask parents/carers/community members who are unwell not to attend school events until they are fully well.

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PLAN

The World Health Organisation (WHO) advised that there is a window of opportunity to contain the spread of the virus if countries take robust measures to detect cases early, isolate and care for patients and trace contacts.

In response to this, and subsequent advice by the Chief Medical Officer, the Department of Education, The Association of Independent Schools of WA and Catholic Education Western Australia are working collaboratively to establish a pandemic preparedness plan to guide schools.

To assist with school planning and to ensure the wellbeing of your child, please ensure that:

- **your contact details (current email and mobile) are up to date and**
- **suitable arrangements are in place to promptly collect your child should they be suddenly taken ill at school.**

MONITORING

The key point is that at this time we are all advised to stay calm, use common sense and recommended infection control measures. People should be operating on an as normal basis unless they are advised otherwise by the Government. In the event that schools are advised to close or there is advice that public gatherings should not proceed, then the school will comply with these directives and cancel events as and when this is required.

We will continue to monitor what seems to be a constantly changing environment and to make decisions focussing on the welfare of students, community and staff, based on the most recent expert available information.

Further information is available at www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus, or via the Healthdirect helpline on **1800 020 080**.

Your sincerely

Mark Marando

Principal