

## Coronavirus (COVID-19 Update) - March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see below regarding updates and precautions in relation to the Coronavirus.

### ***International Travel Restrictions***

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March the Department of Education has placed all school-related international travel (with the exception of travel to the USA, Canada and New Zealand) on hold.

### ***Updated Advice for Parents and Staff***

Effective 1 March 2020, the WA Department of Health has issued updated advice in relation to students or staff coming to Australia from Iran. Only Australian citizens and permanent residents coming from Iran will be allowed entry to Australia and from 1 March they are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days after departing Iran - consistent with the restrictions for those entering from China. Additionally, Australians have been advised NOT to travel to Iran.

The updated advice from the Department of Education for parents and affected staff is:

- Any student or staff member who has been in, or transited through, mainland China (not just Hubei province) or has been in Iran is excluded from work, school or child care services for 14 days from the date they left mainland China or Iran.
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.
- Students and staff who have returned to Australia from mainland China or Iran more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms are able to return to school.

The above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

Parents/carers and staff should notify their school if the student or staff member will be away for the isolation period and confirm the last date they were in mainland China or Iran.

### ***Current Updates***

The [WA Department of Health](#) has updated information including frequently asked questions about the COVID-19. To view this information visit [www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus)

## ***Travel Advice***

Travel Advice is currently in place for the following six countries:

**China (mainland) and Iran** – ‘do not travel’ (including transit through airports)

**South Korea, Japan and Mongolia** – ‘exercise a high degree of caution’.

**Northern Italy** – to ‘exercise a high degree of caution’.

## ***Changes to Masses***

In addition to the usual health and safety practices, the following additional measures are recommended when celebrating the masses and prayer services in schools and churches.

- **Offertory gifts** (bread and wine) should be presented in closed vessels where possible or covered.
- At the **Sign of Peace** do not shake hands. Direct students, staff, parents and community members to offer the simple verbal greeting “Peace Be With You”.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist** are to wash hands with soap and water before Mass and to use hand sanitiser immediately before and after distributing communion.
- It is recommended that the **Communion Host** be received in the hand rather than on the tongue.
- **Holy Communion** will not be shared from the **Chalice**.
- After Holy Communion **the priest** will consume any remaining **Precious Blood** from the **Chalice**. The **Chalice** should be purified immediately by the **priest**.
- All **communion vessels** should be washed after mass, either by the priest or another appointed person, and the **purifier** changed.
- Where schools or office chapels have **Holy Water stoups** (fonts) these should be emptied and not used.
- Encourage parents and community members who are unwell to stay at home rather than attend school masses, liturgies or prayer services.
- Provide hand sanitiser for students and staff to use before school masses, liturgies or prayer services.

### ***How can I protect myself and my family?***

The best way to protect yourself and others is to practise good hygiene by:

- frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue or flexed elbow
- avoiding close contact with anyone who has a cold or flu-like symptoms.
- If you are feeling unwell, stay at home

### ***Speak with your child***

Whilst we don't want to scare our children, it is important to talk to them about things they can do to practise good hygiene. Talk to them about using soap and water or hand sanitiser and washing their hands properly and not sharing food or drink bottles.

Yours sincerely

Mark Marando

Principal