

St Anthony's School
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to families who have made us aware of any travel arrangements and their current situation in regard to self-isolation. We would also ask that families make us aware if they have any conditions that would place them in the vulnerable category. This would include having respiratory, cardio, auto-immune, diabetes conditions or if you are undergoing any treatment for long term illnesses. You do not need to provide details for any students in the school if you have previously provided a medical plan. Please send information to admin@stanthonyswann.wa.edu.au

Further to communication regarding the Coronavirus already received, there have been significant changes in regard to self-isolation after travelling which apply to all members of the school community including students, families and staff.

The Prime Minister has introduced measures placed on all international arrivals into Australia. This means that anyone who has been overseas and has returned after 9pm (WST) on Sunday 15th March must self-isolate.

Ideally, those members in the same house as a person self-isolating should make alternative residential arrangements to mitigate any possible spread of the virus. If this is not possible community members residing in the same residence as a self-isolating person must ensure they do not have any contact with the individual.

To assist in reducing the transmission of Coronavirus, St Anthony's School has increased the intensity of cleaning schedules. We have formed a St Anthony's School Response Team to act should we be informed that a student, staff member or a member of their family has been diagnosed with Coronavirus.

School closure has not been advised across Western Australia at this stage and we are receiving updates regularly on the required course of action. We will keep the community informed as information comes to hand. In regard to school events, large gatherings will be cancelled until at least the end of this term. This includes the Interschool Swimming Carnival, Whadjuk Gift Day, Monday and Friday morning assemblies and hymn singing. Care Awards will be presented to students in their classroom. Small group events such as before and after school activities, class-based incursions, class masses, etc will continue at this stage.

We will assess other situations and make decisions based on the safety of our community as they arise. Parents and Carers will be sent messages informing them of these cancellations.

Students and families may feel worried and anxious at this time and this is normal. Please reassure your child and let them know that these actions are proactive to prevent transmission and so that we can be prepared. Please continue to speak with your child about appropriate hygiene measures such as thorough handwashing, coughing and sneezing into a tissue or elbow, disposing of tissues appropriately and avoiding contact with others if you are not feeling well. In the current climate, children may be seeing extreme behaviours between adults, especially in shopping centres, please continue to model the school values in your discussions with your child.

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