



# St Clare's College

11 March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff & Students,

I am writing with an update on measures that we are ensuring are in place as well as provide you with information in relation to COVID-19 coronavirus. As always the safety and welfare of all students and staff are of utmost priority.

## **Where to get information:**

Information regarding coronavirus is changing daily. The latest information from NSW Health may be accessed at [www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert](http://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert)

Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) has set a page on their public website that will include current operational information. This can also be accessed by parents at <https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/coronavirus-updates>

Specific information related to schools and early childhood services in NSW can be accessed at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-Schools-and-early-childhood-centres>

An excellent and reliable source of information on the virus from the World Health Organisation, which also contains "Basic Protective Measures against the new coronavirus", can be found on the following link. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

## **If a student presents as unwell at school:**

If a student presents as unwell at school, they will be isolated from other students and staff in an area of the office. The student's parents will be called and advised that they are unwell and need to be collected.

## **Decisions as to school closures:**

The spread of the virus overseas has in some cases led to temporary closure of schools. Also, areas within countries have been purposefully isolated in order to slow the spread of the virus. In Australia, these scenarios remain possibilities and are decisions that will be made by government authorities. Planning for possible disruption to operations is imperative given it is possible that NSW Health could make these decisions with limited notice to Sydney Catholic Schools, including St Clare's.

Whilst there is no immediate threat to our community, I am currently working with staff to prepare for a potential temporary closure with the aim being that:

1. There is a continuation of learning, and expectations of the students clear, whilst they are at home;
2. Staff (both teaching & support) are clear on their roles & responsibilities whilst at home;
3. Stress & uncertainty is minimised for **all** members of the College Community;
4. The school can normalise quickly once school resumes.

Should our school close unexpectedly, our planning includes, but is not limited to:

- using google classroom/other online tools;
- printing and distributing teaching resources;
- looking at assessments and considering if they could go ahead online OR if they would need to be postponed.

Effective immediately, all staff and students are required to take their personal devices home with them each day in the event that the school is deemed non-operational outside of school hours. The Sydney Catholic Schools ICT Department are working on a strategy to provide Helpdesk support to staff and students required to work from home.

### **Travel arrangements:**

As we head toward the school holiday period, many staff/students may be finalising holiday and travel plans. I ask that all staff and students follow the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) advice in relation to travel. Further details on this can be found on the [smartraveller website](#).

Should staff or students travel to an area where the DFAT advice is to not travel, they will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to Australia. This is currently changing as the impact of the virus continues to change and so staff and students are asked to monitor the advice as there is the risk that the advice changes during the time they are overseas.

In light of the current situation, I am requesting that all staff and students who are / have planned for an international destination during the upcoming holidays to please email [virginia.black@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:virginia.black@syd.catholic.edu.au) to inform me.

### **Precautionary Measures:**

Finally, the precautionary measures outlined in the recent College Newsletter are essential in minimising the risk of spreading this virus. Could I urge families to seriously discuss with their daughters the importance of adhering to these measures, particularly their own personal hygiene, for the health and wellbeing of all in our community.

As we receive updates and relevant information, this will be shared to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely



**Antoinette McGahan**  
College Principal