

16 March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff & Students,

As the situation surrounding COVID-19 coronavirus evolves, I am writing with an update on what measures we are taking to ensure the safety and welfare of all students and staff.

**If a student is currently unwell:**

If your child is unwell with a respiratory illness (running nose, headache, sore throat), they should remain at home until symptoms resolve. All students have access to Google classroom which will enable them to keep up with any work they have missed whilst they are absent from school.

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

If a student presents 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 immediately.

**Decisions as to school closures:**

As of 8am this morning, St Clare's College continues to operate until otherwise notified.

**Current advice:**

The College has adopted social distancing measures, including postponing assemblies, cancelling domestic school excursions and incursions as well as travel, some events and conferences until further notice.

All major arts, sports activities and events will temporarily be ceased until further notice. This includes whole-school sporting events and inter-school events involving three or more schools.

Current advice from the Australian Government is:

- As of midnight Sunday, 15 March, all overseas travellers into Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- A ban on cruise liners from foreign ports arriving at Australian ports for 30 days.
- 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 and have shown no symptoms during the 14-day home-isolation period are able to return to school or work.

NSW Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. A close contact is a person who has spent significant time either face to face (15 minutes) or in an enclosed space (2 hours or more) as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is advising these close contacts about not attending work, school or early childhood and childcare services.



# St Clare's College

## 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](#).

Furthermore, 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:

All students are reminded about caring for their own health and that of all members of our community. Each girl is strongly advised to ensure the following precautionary measures are implemented across all areas:

1. All students are to wash their hands regularly and follow basic hygiene, particularly after going to the bathroom and before eating. There is plenty of supply of soap and paper towels. Used paper towels must be placed securely in the bins provided.
2. If available, all members of the community are encouraged to have a personal size of hand sanitiser in their pocket for personal use.
3. There is to be no physical contact which means no hugs or shake hands.

## Where to get information:

The information regarding coronavirus is changing daily. The latest information from NSW health can be accessed at <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>.

SCS has set a page on the public website that can be accessed by parents <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>.

Finally, could I please urge families to continue to discuss with their daughters the importance of adhering to these measures for the health and wellbeing of all in our community. Similarly, I encourage everyone to remain calm during these unpredictable and unprecedented times.

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

Yours sincerely

**Antoinette McGahan**  
College Principal