



19 March 2020

Good Morning Parents and Carers

## **RE: Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 – Update**

I am writing to provide you with an update on our school's approach to the COVID-19 situation. This may be new information, update information or just reminders. I will continue to communicate to you as our response to this public health issue evolves.

The following strategies have been put in place to support personal hygiene:

- Assemblies – Whole School, Year Level have been cancelled until further notice.
- Additional cleaning protocols implemented during the school day.
- Additional supplies of hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper and sanitiser have been provided and further supplies ordered.
- Whole School and Year Level events have been cancelled ( eg. swimming carnival, Bullying No Way.)
- Camps and Excursions have been cancelled.
- School Sport (district, regional, state, national, interstate and international competitions) have been cancelled.
- Hygiene information has been presented to students.

### **School closures**

As indicated earlier in the week, we continue to take advice from health authorities on the status of our school operations. As announced by the Prime Minister the most recent health advice is that schools remain open. At this time, the only exception to this is where a school may be asked to close when a confirmed COVID-19 case is identified that closely and directly impacts school students or staff and where contact tracing may be required. The Queensland Chief Health Officer statement on Monday provided detailed information regarding the [rationale for schools remaining open](#).

### **Curriculum support for absent students**

A number of parents have enquired about the level of curriculum support to be provided for students who are not in attendance during this event. While recognising that some families are electing to take their children out of school, state schools remain open as advised by all of Australia's Chief Health Officers. The department is continuing to develop 2 week units of work that would be available in the event of school closure.

Schools will continue with their normal protocols with regard to ill students. If parents/carers

have elected to keep their children who are well at home, families will be able to access curriculum materials via the Department of Education website from today. The materials will be taken from the existing *Learning Place* and made publicly available for families. These materials are similar to those made available in other recent emergency events and will be progressively updated.

### **Social distancing**

As we have learned over recent weeks, social distancing is a key element of the containment strategy for COVID-19. The Australian Government updated new social distancing directions – and this now includes **a new and lower threshold of 100 people for indoor non-essential gatherings**. The normal teaching and learning processes in schools are exempt from this direction as they are essential operations and should continue as planned. However, the advice regarding non-essential gatherings similarly applies to public indoor gatherings of 100 people or more planned by schools. These directions from the Australian Government are effective immediately. All non-essential face-to-face meetings will adhere to health authority advice about safe social distancing.

### **Camps and excursions**

From the end of this week, all school trips, camps and excursions are postponed or cancelled as a further step to implementing the advice on social distancing and reducing the risk of transmission in our schools and communities. Therefore, school trips, camps and excursions that were scheduled to commence from 21 March or after are to be postponed or cancelled until further notice.

### **School sport**

As advised yesterday, a decision has been made to cancel the representative school sport program including district, regional, state, national, interstate and international competitions. This includes Queensland School Sport team participation in any national, interstate or international event organised across Australia or internationally. This decision to cancel has been taken in line with the Australian Government directive to minimise non-essential gatherings in order to reduce exposure risks associated with COVID-19. Further to this, and effective from 21 March 2020, all interschool sport is to be cancelled until further notice. Again, this decision is being taken to further strengthen the containment strategies that we are implementing in our communities.

### **Classroom delivery**

We are attending to a number of requests from parents for their students to complete work at home. I recommend that all students should continue with completion of drafts, assignments, homework and revision activities as far as possible. Students should check their school email account for any additional instructions from their teachers during their absence from school.

Yours sincerely



Pam Prichard  
Principal