



ST THERESE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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10 March 2020

Update – COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

St Therese's Primary School, with the assistance of the Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited (**DOSCEL**), is continuing to monitor the impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The situation is changing rapidly and our immediate focus is to minimise the spread of this, and other viruses, in our school and community.

The best defence against most viruses is practising good hand and respiratory (cough/sneeze) hygiene.

Please ensure that the following key messages are reinforced with your children:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet
- avoid touching your face (eyes, nose and mouth)
- cover their cough and sneeze (preferably into the crook of their elbow) and dispose of any used tissues appropriately
- avoid contact with others (more than 1.5 metres from people) if they, or another person, is unwell.

Students should not attend school if they are feeling unwell and should remain at home until symptoms resolve. Appropriate medical assistance should be sought as required.

If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be contacted and requested to take your child home.

The following requirements remain in place for students, staff, volunteers and contractors:

- not to attend school for 14 days after they were last in mainland China, Iran (on or after 1 March 2020) or South Korea (on or after 5 March 2020).
- self-isolate at home and should not attend school for 14 days:
 - following exposure to any confirmed COVID-19 case; or
 - after leaving mainland China.

If you have recently travelled from Italy, there will be no requirement for your child to stay at home unless instructed to at an Australian airport on re-entry to Australia.

It is now necessary for our school to enact the following to minimise the risk of transmission:

- Cancel all overseas travel including study tours, student exchanges etc
- Cancel all interstate student excursions
- Cancel all student visits to aged care homes and other activities that may impact high risk individuals immediately
- Placing an increased focus on school cleaning to further reduce the risk of infection.

Principals have also been asked to review all excursions and other school activities, including school fetes and where there is a large gathering of people.

Further information is available from the following:

- The Department of Health and Human Service <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

I will keep you updated with further information as the situation changes. At the present time, school will continue to operate as usual with some adjustments to minimise the potential risk of transmission of COVID-19.

If you have any queries please contact me on 59967525 or email principal@sttcbourne.catholic.edu.au

Regards

Michelle Bruitzman
Principal