Dear parents and families,

As you may be aware, the situation regarding the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus has continued to evolve.

Over the weekend, the Commonwealth’s Chief Medical Officer and Victoria’s Chief Health Officer recommended a stronger precautionary approach to managing coronavirus for travellers returned from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) from 1 February 2020.

This recommendation is that parents/guardians/carers should ensure that any children returning from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) who were in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 is isolated at home and should not attend school until 14 days after they were last in mainland China.

This recommendation does not apply retrospectively. It applies only to students who were in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020.

The existing advice remains that parents/guardians/carers of students should ensure that any student is isolated at home and should not attend school for 14 days:

* following exposure to any confirmed novel coronavirus case; or
* after leaving Hubei Province.

If you think your children are showing relevant symptoms, please call the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to discuss further actions on 1300 651 160.

DHHS has developed [fact sheets](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-education-sector-novel-coronavirus) in English and Simplified Chinese which include the latest information and advice.

Additional advice and information on the steps to take can be found on the [coronavirus web page](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flist.comms.educationupdates.vic.gov.au%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D770f4d1425f14b0d9936ca688e358872%26id%3Df5e17b8d%26e%3D987f6d42&data=02%7C01%7CCraig.Tuck%40education.vic.gov.au%7C34550120fd9f472b882a08d7a4b2e889%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C637158960673593436&sdata=YGxHjugqNQuvPUz23KkBG13Ncgp8QAjTZQz9wWs6oC4%3D&reserved=0) which also includes advice on:

* continuity of learning for students who are not attending school
* international students and families hosting
* international travel
* maintaining good health hygiene at school
* health promotion posters and materials
* information, resources and contacts related to coronavirus.

Thank you for your cooperation.