



St Norbert
College

13 March 2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

The following information regards the College's position around the Coronavirus (COVID -19).

Symptoms of COVID-19 relate to a fever or respiratory symptoms - these can include a cough, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, a sore throat, or a runny nose. If you develop these symptoms, the advice is to see a doctor and provide the doctor with details of your travel history.

Please note, we are seeking your co-operation in that if your child is unwell, with symptoms associated with the virus, that you please seek medical advice and keep them at home. Please ensure they are fully well and cleared by a doctor before returning to the College.

The College will provide work during student absence from school during this outbreak.

St Norbert College continues to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to ensure the safety of our school community. Our advice will continue to be in line with WA Government, Department of Health, and Catholic Education WA advice. The WA Department of Health has updated information including frequently asked questions about the COVID-19. To view this information visit; www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus

International Travel Restrictions for Schools:

The Western Australian Government has issued a ban for all overseas travel for school students and staff. At this point, the only impending possibility of international travel was the 2020 Japan Tour in November with Mater Dei College. We have communicated our current stance to those families who have expressed an interest in this tour.

Personal Travel:

While the advice regarding travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements for students and staff continues to evolve, the following outline is intended to provide some clarity and certainty – particularly as parents and staff consider their plans for the upcoming Easter school holidays (Friday 10 April – Tuesday 28 April).

Advice regarding countries identified as “Higher Risk” or “Moderate Risk”

Students or staff who have travelled to or transited through China, Iran, Italy or South Korea **MUST** isolate for 14 days before attending school.

Students or staff who have travelled to or transited through other countries (excluding China, Iran, Italy or South Korea) can attend school. If students or staff display symptoms they should not attend school and seek medical advice.

All returned passengers who have travelled in or transited through “higher risk” countries or a country considered to pose a “moderate risk” of transmission in the last 14 days should self-monitor for symptoms and immediately isolate themselves if they become unwell.

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| HIGHER RISK | MODERATE RISK |
|---|--|
| <p>Must isolate for 14 days prior to attending;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainland China • Iran • Italy • South Korea | <p>Can attend school, but self-monitor;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • Hong Kong • Indonesia (including Bali) • Japan • Singapore • Thailand |

The most up to date list can be accessed at:

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-covid-19-countries.htm>

Travel Planning:

Parents are encouraged to inform the College (**9350 5433**) of any upcoming international travel plans. This includes plans to transit through countries identified as moderate to high risk.

Please consider the potential for changes to travel restrictions and self-quarantine requirements should the Federal Government deem this necessary to mitigate the risk of transmission.

A number of questions have been asked regarding personal student or staff travel to **Bali** and other destinations within Southeast Asia. Presently, there are no restrictions on students or staff travelling to Bali and Southeast Asia. China, Iran, Italy and South Korea are the only nations where travel is not possible.

If a student or staff member returns from Bali or another Southeast Asian location they must monitor their health and should any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus develop, immediately self-isolate and **attend a COVID clinic or call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.**

Advice for Parents and Staff:

There are certain countries where the risk of contracting COVID-19 is greater than others. This information is constantly updated. Please refer to the Smart Traveller website <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/> for more information about travel destinations.

Please be aware that any travel to areas cited by the Australian Government as restricted will result in the requirement to observe the 14 days quarantine period upon return to Australia and before return to College. Contact with an infected person will also require the quarantine period of 14 days to be observed.

If you do plan to travel in the coming months, please contact our College Reception or (08) 9350 5433 so that we may hold a record of the country you are visiting and your expected return.

With the Easter break (Friday 10 April – Tuesday 28 April) in mind, I need to alert you to the possibility that the government may change their position significantly on overseas travel by next month. ***This could mean that your child may need to be isolated for a period upon return to Australia even if they are not returning from currently listed countries like mainland China.***

The most important thing is hygiene. We continue the advice that we should all wash our hands thoroughly and avoid face and hand contact with others. We encourage parents to reinforce these messages at home.

We will place a notice in the Bulletin reminding students of this and also about drinking from the fountains. Students are encouraged to bring a bottle and fill it at break times rather than having their face close to the fountain.

Pandemic Preparedness Plan:

Health Organisation (WHO) advised that there is a window of opportunity to contain the spread of the virus if countries take robust measures to detect cases early, isolate and care for patients and trace contacts.

In response to this, and subsequent advice by the Chief Medical Officer, the Department of Education, The Association of Independent Schools of WA and Catholic Education Western Australia are working collaboratively to establish a pandemic preparedness plan.

In addition to this, a number of CEWA task groups, including school leaders, are working to undertake scenario planning and develop short, medium and long-term responsiveness and education continuity strategies.

The College has formed a ***School Response Team*** who are investigating and formulating a plan to enable the school to continue to deliver high quality education in the event of school closures or other major disruptions. We expect this plan to be distributed and accessible to students and families early next week.

Monitoring:

We will continue to monitor what seems to be a constantly changing environment and to make decisions focussing on the welfare of our students and staff, based on the most recent expert available information. Please be assured that we are being vigilant and keeping a constant watch on developments regarding this matter and that we will send out updates when and if we think they are required. ***Above all, our priority is the health and welfare of the students, staff and broader community.***

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the College or my office.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Harvey
PRINCIPAL