



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

PO Box 340
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Telephone: (08) 9796 8100
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13 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will be aware from the frequent amendments to health and travel advice, our Federal and State authorities are focused on minimising and preventing transmission of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus.

While we are reminded that the risk of transmission in Australia remains low, the escalation in confirmed cases around the world, combined with the uncertainty surrounding the spread of the virus, is rightly creating concern for many in our communities.

As a school community, the health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. We ask that all parents please discuss with your child the importance of the precautionary hygiene advice outlined below.

How can I protect myself and others against COVID-19?

- Frequently wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel.
- Refrain from touching mouth, nose or eyes.
- If coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow.
- Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene.
- Avoid close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).

How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious;
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes; or
- touching objects or surfaces (such as door handles or tables) contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

Most infections are only transmitted by people when they have symptoms. These can include fever, a cough, sore throat, tiredness and shortness of breath.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ADVICE

Personal International 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 school holidays. We acknowledge that Department of Education has not asked families to provide medical clearance before returning to school, however:

We request that you provide a medical clearance before returning to school when you return from overseas travel, regardless of the regions in or through which you have travelled. Please liaise with us if this proves difficult.



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

Students or staff who have travelled to or transited through Italy, China, Iran 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, Republic of 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.

Higher Risk	Moderate Risk
Must isolate for 14 days prior to attending	Can attend school, but self-monitor
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Italy• Mainland China• Iran• Republic of Korea• Singapore• Thailand	All other countries

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

To support our school's response planning, particularly as the April school holidays approach, parents and staff are encouraged to:

- inform our school's administration of upcoming travel plans. This includes plans to transit through countries identified as moderate to high risk;
- refer to the Department of Health and Smart Traveller websites to ensure you are aware of current travel restrictions and advice prior to embarking on your travels. These sites should also be checked regularly prior to your return to Australia as the information changes regularly.

<https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>

The Australian Government continues to monitor international public health information and may amend travel restrictions, health screening and self-quarantine requirements.

Parents and staff who undertake personal international travel are asked to consider their preparedness to self-quarantine for 14 days following their arrival in Australia should this be required.

Further information for parents regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is available from the Department of Education website via the following link:

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/coronavirus-school-update>

We will continue to provide updated communications with all parents of St Joseph's as we receive updated information from Catholic Education WA and the WA Government.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Stapleton and Jane Olsen
Acting Principals