



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

16 March, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Assumption College COVID-19 Update

As you would expect, and have likely seen from the emails we have sent in recent days, Assumption College is doing all that it can to protect the health and safety of our students and staff, and by extension, your family and the broader community.

In alignment with the advice from the Department of Health and the Department of Education, we have implemented the following:

- Improved hygiene education and improved access to sanitisers.
- Increased cleaning schedules, including regular touch-plate cleans and air conditioners.
- Social-distancing measures have been put in place (well, as much as you can with teens!), with instructions to keep air circulating in all classrooms and corridors as much as possible.
 - Where possible, practical class programs and general classroom spaces have been modified to adapt to the 1.5m social distancing requirements.
 - All co-curricular training and events have been cancelled for the remainder of Term 1 (sport, performing arts etc).
 - All camps, retreats and excursions for remainder for Term 1 have been cancelled or postponed (parents will receive specific advice of each instance).
 - The Open Evening has been cancelled.
 - The Marlies Restaurant has been closed until further notice.
 - The full school assembly, the Easter liturgy and house/year level assemblies have been cancelled.
 - Parent-Teacher interviews (first day of Term 2) have been cancelled. Please communicate with teachers on an “as needs” basis and we will look at the possibility of rescheduling later in Term 2 (possibly via online meetings).
 - Athletics Day postponed.

At this stage we are still conducting risk assessments for VET classes (both held here and at other schools/TAFEs) and Workplace Learning. Parents will be informed if there is any change to normal attendance.

Parents will receive notifications about the above-mentioned events as we draw closer and more information becomes available.

Protecting the health of the community

We have a number of families who have placed themselves in voluntary precautionary isolation because a member of their family has come in contact with someone who is suspected of having the virus. This is completely appropriate and we are deeply grateful to these families for keeping us informed. The procedure is that once they have confirmation of the outcome of testing (which as we know takes a couple of days), next steps can be discussed. In the case of a positive exposure, the College would then work with the Department of Health to determine what isolating should occur.

I've attached a useful discussion sheet for parents to assist with conversations about the coronavirus with your adolescents. Teens experience their anxiety in varying ways, and providing clear and calm information is one of the best ways to reduce that anxiety.

Planning for school closure

We continue to plan for the likelihood that for some time our staff and students will be working from home. Our intention is to provide meaningful learning experiences for our students over whatever time a shutdown may occur. We would appreciate if those families with limited internet access at home could make contact with your child's Learning Mentor, so that they can help you plan for your child to be able to remain up to date with their school work throughout any disruptions.

Blessings,



Kate Fogarty
Principal

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