

4 March, 2020.



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

Dear Assumption College families

RE: UPDATE CONCERNING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND BOARDING IMPLICATIONS

I think it timely to provide you with an update on our monitoring and decision making in regards to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and our boarding program.

The College is regularly checking the Australian Government Department of Health website for the latest news and monitoring other updates about the Coronavirus. The Government has recently released a detailed 56 page report that can be accessed at: www.health.gov.au

We have reminded our boarding students about personal hygiene practices that assist in keeping us all healthy and placed posters reinforcing these messages around the College. As always, we urge our families to monitor the health of their children and avoid sending them back to the boarding houses if they are showing signs of respiratory infection, fever, cough, shortness of breath or have any breathing difficulties. Following state guidelines, if you or your child contracts coronavirus (COVID-19) or comes in direct contact with a confirmed case, please inform the College as soon as possible.

We will continue to take advice from official government authorities, and in the unlikely event of a school closure, we believe that our SIMON learning management system coupled with Google Classroom and WEBEX online conferencing tools will provide us with a platform to assist with the provision of some meaningful curriculum resources remotely.

With particular regard to boarding, should a boarding student or staff member present with the symptoms of COVID-19, we will take measures to quarantine them as quickly as possible and inform parents in a timely manner. It is likely that the patient will need to be quarantined until a formal diagnosis can be made, and as with all students who are unwell, our expectation will always be that this should be at home. Our goal will be to work with you to get each individual home (or into your nominated place of quarantine offsite) as quickly and safely as possible. At all times we will work under the advice of the relevant authorities, who may enact a broader quarantining of students than merely those immediately suspected/diagnosed.

The expectations for the quarantine of students in a boarding house are quite thorough, and would be challenging for us to manage over more than a day or two – especially if there are several students who require this. They include:

- Single bedroom with own bathroom
- Access to medical care

- Carer who understands importance and requirements of quarantine and symptoms to monitor for, and who to call should illness develop
- Availability of masks for the student under quarantine, and for any other person who may be required to have contact with the student
- Ability for the safe cleaning of each room and bathroom and safe disposal of waste products
- Location of quarantine not in an isolated location
- Access to psychological and social support
- Access to food and water and other essential needs

In light of the above, we ask that you prepare for this eventuality, and discuss potential plans for the pick-up and quarantining of your child with your son/daughter and with any family/friends who can/will support you should this plan need to be enacted.

In asking this of you, we hope we can alleviate any anxiety that you or your child may experience. We will certainly continue to do all that we can to help our students maintain their health and their regular daily activities!

Planning Holidays:

In regard to travel, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has raised the level of advice for several countries, and Australians travelling overseas are encouraged to review the smart traveller website at <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>. This website is updated regularly and will provide you with advice about any travel you have planned for the coming school holidays, as it may have implications for returning to Australia and/or enacting a 14-day isolation period.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to ensure the safety of our Assumption College boarding students, their families and our community.

Yours sincerely



Kate Fogarty
Principal

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