

16 March 2020

Re: COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are continuing to monitor the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and we are guided by the advice given by the experts and authorities including Queensland Health, State and Commonwealth Governments, Independent Schools Queensland and Lutheran Education Queensland. Yesterday, the combined governments and health authorities released an update that included the following points:

- Schools will remain open and respond to local issues as required, and on the advice of health authorities.
- All international travel arrivals will be required to self-quarantine on arrival back in Australia for a period of fourteen days.
- Mass gatherings of 500+ people are not to proceed.
- For other non-essential gatherings, consider the need to proceed and the issues of health and hygiene/social distancing as further mitigations to the spread of the virus.

Our response to COVID-19 is all about containment and I ask all members of our community to pay attention to health and hygiene.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Symptoms range from a mild cough to pneumonia. Some people recover easily, others may get very sick, very quickly. People with coronavirus may experience:

- fever
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue
- shortness of breath

There is evidence that it spreads from person to person, most likely through:

- close contact with an infectious person;
- contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze;
- touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person and then touching your mouth or face.

If your child develops flu-like symptoms, please:

- keep your child at home;
- avoid close contact with others;
- see a Doctor or contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) immediately;
- seek medical advice if your child has other underlying medical conditions;
- call ahead to the medical centre or doctor's surgery, advising of your child's symptoms;

../2

- further advice and information about coronavirus is available on the Queensland Health website:
[http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus](http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/ novel-coronavirus)

In Australia, the people most at risk of getting the virus are those who have recently been to mainland China, Iran or Italy or have been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of coronavirus.

In our School, we are ensuring both staff and children practise good hygiene to protect against infections:

- washing hands often with soap and water;
- using a tissue and cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing;
- disposing of tissues in the bin immediately;
- avoiding close contact with others, such as touching, hugging, kissing;
- staying at home if unwell;
- ensuring our cleaners have been issued updated protocols for cleaning practices that prioritise human contact areas – benches, handles, handrails, toilets, etc.

As families and caregivers, we also ask that you follow these practices whilst in your child's school and also talk to your children about the importance of these practices at home too.

This morning, our School Executive took a decision to postpone all non-essential events and activities for the remainder of Term 1. These include:

- All Assemblies
- All Chapels
- Cross Country
- Year 1 School Sunday
- Year 1 Retirement Village Visit
- Music Showcase
- Year 3 Incursion

We believe this to be an appropriate response at this stage, and in an ever changing environment.

If there is a confirmed case at our school, it is likely our school will need to close for a period to allow Queensland Health to assess the situation. The school will work with Queensland Health to perform contact tracing as required to identify individuals who may have come in contact with a COVID-19 case. Contact will be made with parents, caregivers and staff who have come in to contact with a confirmed case and further advice will be given by Queensland Health.

St Paul's Lutheran Primary School will then work with our cleaning contractors and/or other relevant specialists to conduct cleaning of our facilities as required, to ensure our school is safe for students and staff to return when clearance is given.

Further to any local case of COVID-19 within the school community, the Queensland or Federal Government may elect to suspend face-to-face teaching due to a more generalised increase in local cases as a preventative measure. Should the need arise, the school has plans in place to manage this scenario and will communicate with parents and caregivers.

We will be utilising our existing platform, Seesaw, and we will be rolling out instructions and details of use should we need to move to this new phase. It is therefore imperative that you are signed up as a family to this platform.

As indicated in an earlier communication to our community, we will continue to advise parents, students and staff of any updated information and decisions in relation to COVID-19. Again, I encourage everyone in the St Paul's Lutheran Primary School community to exercise caution and good hygiene practices.

The key message is to look after yourself and your neighbour. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to provide an outstanding learning environment for the students in our care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Prinsloo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anton Prinsloo
PRINCIPAL