



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
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COVID-19 Update as at 16th March 2020

We are writing as a follow up to the announcements made yesterday by the Prime Minister as well as new advice provided by the Western Australian State Premier and Minister for Education. These relate to the evolving situation in response to COVID-19.

Our focus is and has always been on minimising and preventing transmission of any infectious disease and making sure that our school system is prepared for any possible cases. To that end all classes have soap and water, paper towels and hand sanitiser. Soap is available in toilets and at the small sink at the side of the hall. As always, children are continually reminded to cough and sneeze in to their elbow. These precautions are always in place and have not changed as a result of COVID-19.

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSTATE TRAVEL

The Prime Minister has introduced measures placed on international arrivals into Australia. This means a mandatory 14-day self-isolation requirement has been placed on all international arrivals into Australia effective from 9pm (WST) on Sunday 15 March.

As with all Australian travellers, students and staff who return from international travel must self-isolate for 14 days. This includes all parents, contractors and school visitors. Ideally, students or staff members in the same house as a person self-isolating should make alternative residential arrangements to mitigate any possible spread of the virus. If this is not possible, staff and students residing in the same residence as a self-isolating person **MUST** ensure they do not have any contact with the individual.

LARGE GATHERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

The Australian Government also announced that all organised, **non-essential gatherings attended by more than 500 people** must be cancelled from Monday 16 March 2020. Principals have been directed to cancel or postpone all organised, non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people until further notice. This includes swimming and sports carnivals, liturgical celebrations, performances, concerts, exhibitions, fetes and fairs. Therefore, unfortunately, our **Food and Dance Fest is cancelled** along with our **Interschool Swimming Carnival and therefore our squad training has also been cancelled**. Due to our size, school assemblies and school masses can still take place.

STAFF AND STUDENT HEALTH IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY

The education sector in Western Australia is working collaboratively to respond to advice provided by the WA Department of Health. As we have seen across the world, this situation continues to evolve and change. There is agreement nationally and at a state level that there is no need to close schools as a pre-emptive measure at this point ***therefore teachers will not provide school work for children where parents have chosen to keep them home from school.***

This is the situation as it stands, based on current advice and we will continue to keep you informed.

God bless
Mrs Therese Bandy