

Ref: 049/20

6 March 2020

Memorandum

To: Diocesan Directors; Principals of RI & PJP Schools; Federation of RI & PJP Schools; ACSP; CCSP

From: Danielle Cronin, Director Education Policy

Subject: **Current Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice (as of 10.45pm 5 March)**

Colleagues

Current advice

NSW Health and Education have advised Epping Boys High School will be closed on Friday 6 March following confirmation a Year 11 student at the school has tested positive for Covid-19. The one-day closure will enable the school community and health officials to work through a contact and containment strategy.

Students at the school have been advised to stay at home and self-isolate over the weekend. Staff have also been asked to stay at home and self-isolate. The further advice regarding the school will be updated over the weekend.

Foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents of Australia) who are in the Republic of Korea on or after 5 March, will not be allowed to enter Australia for 14 days from the time they have left or transited through the Republic of Korea.

Only Australian citizens and permanent residents will still be able to enter Australia, as will their immediate family members (spouses, legal guardians or dependants only). They will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the day they left the Republic of Korea.

Previous advice from the NSW Government remains current:

- Any student or staff member who has left, or transited through mainland China since 1 February, Iran since 1 March or the Republic of Korea (South Korea) since 5 March, is excluded from child care services, school or work for 14 days from the date they left mainland China, Iran or the Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.

Students and staff who have returned to Australia and have shown no symptoms during the 14-day self-isolation period are able to return to school or work.

The NSW Ministry of Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. It is advising these close contacts about not attending work, school or early childhood and childcare services.

The CSNSW continues to work closely with NSW Ministry of Health to monitor and respond to developments and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Consistent with current guidelines, children, students and staff who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with our current practice if any student becomes unwell, we will implement our infection control guidelines and follow the advice provided by the NSW Ministry of Health as appropriate.

Resources

Maintaining good hygiene standards is an important way to reduce the risk of acquiring and spreading respiratory infections. We ask staff, parents and carers and students to promote good hygiene including [handwashing](#) (external link) with soap as handwashing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

The NSW Ministry of Health has advice and resources about COVID-19 in [English](#) (External link) and [Chinese](#) (External link).

The Australian Bishops have also released the following advice pertaining to liturgical implications which can be found [here](#).

Overseas school excursions

In relation to overseas excursions, the NSW Department has postponed indefinitely all overseas school excursions. We are aware that a number of Catholic schools, diocesan offices and RIs/PJPs have trips planned. CSNSW advice is that a robust risk assessment is undertaken in relation to any planned travel and that strong consideration be given to postponing any planned trips in the short to medium term. We are also aware that there are insurance, and therefore financial, implications of cancelling any trip. If you would like further advice please contact Gerard Delany at Gerard.delany@csnsw.catholic.edu.au or 02 92871555.

Australian Government advice

The Australian Government has published a [daily alert](#) with the latest medical advice and official reports.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gerard Delany at Gerard.delany@csnsw.catholic.edu.au or 02 9287 1555.

Kind Regards



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Catholic Schools NSW