



RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE

College Rd (PO BOX 312) FORBES NSW 2871

P: 02 6852 2000 F: 02 6852 3768 rbcc@redbendcc.nsw.edu.au

www.redbendcc.nsw.edu.au

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Dear Parents and Carers

As you are all aware, Coronavirus COVID-19 is evolving with Health, Government and Education authorities continuing to make announcements and decisions to steady the foreseeable impact. Advice and updates continue daily and we are responding in line with direction from Department of Education Skills and Employment, NSW Health, Catholic Schools NSW and Marist Schools Australia.

I would like to outline some of the measures we are taking, along with the steps to be taken if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19. At the time of writing, I have not been informed of any confirmed cases of any student or staff members. If your child or any of their close contacts are diagnosed with COVID-19, please inform the College immediately.

The health and wellbeing of the students in our care is of utmost importance and we will make decisions in line with authorities that will limit or steady the exposure of our community to COVID-19.

If you require any further information, as the information is changing daily, please refer to the latest information from Department of Education Skills and Employment and NSW Health which can be accessed via the following links.

[Australian Government Department Education Skills and Employment - Coronavirus](#)

[NSW Department of Health – Coronavirus alerts: general](#)

[NSW Department of Health – Coronavirus: FAQs](#)

[NSW Department of Health – Coronavirus alerts: schools and early children centres, parents and students](#)

Preventative measures

Firstly, the four most important things each and every one of us can do to help manage the spread of the virus are:

- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly.
- Sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands.
- Continually remind your child/children of good hygiene practices and preventative measures.
- If your child is unwell they are to remain at home.

Possible School Closures

Under instruction from Health Authorities, general school closures at this stage are not warranted. At the same time depending on what happens and decisions that are made by authorities, we are setting up structures for the education of students online and however else possible.

Cancelled events

The following events have been cancelled to lower or flatten the risk of spread of COVID-19. These decisions are in line with recommendations from authorities.

- DIO Touch that was scheduled to be at RBCC this Wednesday
- The disco scheduled for this Thursday night
- All external excursions
- Assembly this week cancelled
- All offsite sport
- Immersions to Bangladesh, Santa Teresa and Sydney
- Debutante Ball
- No visits to aged care facilities
- No non-essential inter state travel
- Work experience postponed hopefully to later in the year
- All major sport activities and events.
- All interschool sports and events

Alternative ways to communicate

To meet the guidelines around Social Distancing, we have put the following in place.

- No weekly assembly. Instead we are looking into doing a live stream that is fed to students in PC classes
- No gathering of large groups of students. At this stage the figure is 500 or more. We will look into how we gather students
- Sport on Thursdays will gather in year groups and then do year level sports

We are currently looking into our cleaning practices and resources that we can get to support hygienic cleaning throughout the school.

I would ask you to reconsider international travel in holidays as your child/children will be excluded on your return for at least 14 days and there are many other implications to consider.

It will be important that we take things one day at a time and support each other and most importantly your children, the students in our care.

I will continue to keep you updated with relevant information as it comes to hand.

May Mary our Good Mother and St Marcellin Champagnat continue to watch over our community.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Dwyer
Principal