



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

3 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

To ensure the continued health and wellbeing of our students, staff and school communities, the following update has been provided by Catholic Schools NSW in relation to COVID-19 (previously referred to as Novel Coronavirus). This advice is identical to the advice provided by the NSW Department of Education to all government schools.

While only a small number of COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in New South Wales the Department continues to work closely with NSW Ministry of Health to monitor international developments. CSNSW will pass on information as soon as it comes to hand to ensure you stay informed of developments.

Updated Advice

Effective 1 March 2020 the Federal Government has issued a travel ban on foreigners coming to Australia from Iran. Only Australian citizens and permanent residents coming from Iran will be allowed entry to Australia and from 1 March they are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days after departing Iran consistent with the restrictions for those entering from China. Additionally, Australians have been advised NOT to travel to Iran.

The updated advice from the NSW Government for parents and affected staff is:

- Any student or staff member who has been in, or transited through, mainland China (not just Hubei province) or has been in Iran is excluded from work, school or child care services for 14 days from the date they left mainland China or Iran (as the COVID-19 incubation period can be as long as two weeks).
- 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 from mainland China or Iran more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms are able to return to school.



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The NSW Ministry of Health has processes to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. Advice about not attending school would be provided to these close contacts by the NSW Ministry of Health.

Consistent with current guidelines, staff and students unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. If any student becomes unwell, we will follow the advice provided by the NSW Ministry of Health as appropriate.

Further information on COVID-19 is also available from NSW Health.

Overseas Travel/School Excursions

Many schools have planned overseas travel or excursions to occur during the year. However, with the current COVID-19 situation, the safety of students and staff is paramount. The Department of Education has placed all overseas excursions on hold until further notice with any planned trips in Term 1 to be canceled. We have been advised we should evaluate proposed overseas travel and school excursions.

Practising Good Hygiene

Maintaining good hygiene standards is an important way to reduce the risk of acquiring and spreading respiratory infections using infection control guidelines. The Department of Education has made their infection control procedures available and it provides a range of practical strategies for schools to prevent transmission of infectious diseases. Schools are reminded to provide appropriate handwashing soap as hand washing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

Catholic Schools NSW will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep schools up to date on this matter.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school on rbcc@redbendcc.nsw.edu.au or 02 6852 2000.

Mr Stephen Dwyer
Principal