

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Mill Park Secondary College School Community

The coronavirus (COVID-19) is causing uncertainty across communities locally and globally. It is important that we keep informed regarding latest advice and act within the guidelines provided.

Mill Park Secondary College is taking additional measures to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

Although we do not have any known cases in our school our first priority at the College is the health and safety of staff, students and wider community. As a result, we are postponing our Showcase Evening that was scheduled for today, 16th March 2020. In addition to this, our scheduled tour for Tuesday 17th March at 9:15am and morning tea with the principals has also been postponed. All excursions and camps have been cancelled and we will not run assemblies for the time being.

Parents should note that school is still running as normal at present. Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education and Training advice is that unless there is a confirmed case within a school community, the regular learning program should continue.

Restrictions and precautions

Everyone arriving into Australia from overseas from midnight 15th March will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This obviously includes students and staff who may be returning from overseas excursions or other travel.

Importantly, it also includes parents and carers and any other relatives or friends of your students who are returning from overseas travel. As they are required to self-isolate, they must not visit the school to pick up children or for any other reason.

There are also strict travel restrictions on visitors from China, South Korea, Italy and Iran who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents. Visitors from mainland China, South Korea, Italy and Iran who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents, or their dependants will not be allowed entry into Australia.

Precautions

The Department of Health and Human Services has advised that schools do not need to take action unless a student or staff member:

- o is a confirmed case of COVID-19
- o has had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

* Close contact is defined by DHHS as someone who has had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case or shared a closed space with someone for more than two hours with a confirmed case.

Good hygiene practices are the most effective means of minimising the spread of COVID-19.

As per the normal course of events, if your child is sick or ill for any reason, please do not send them to school.

Potential school shutdowns

There is of course the potential that our school or all schools may be closed down as a precautionary measure. Please be aware that in this eventuality, we will be given very short notice. If this is the case, please be aware that learning will continue via our Google Classroom and Maths Pathways online platforms. Students will be required to continue their learning from home as a minimum for normal school hours. They will require an internet connection and device to complete their learning.

As this is an evolving situation we will keep the community updated. I ask that members of the community keep looking at the website and our Facebook page for further updates or contact the General Office should you have any queries.

I apologise to all those who have been inconvenienced by the change and thank you for your support as we work to keep our community safe.



Trish Horner
College Principal