



St Norbert
College

Tuesday 4 February 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Latest update - Novel Coronavirus and students who have visited or transited through Hong Kong

Acting on the latest information regarding the Novel Coronavirus from the Department of Health, Catholic Education Western Australia is advising the following for all Catholic schools in Western Australia.

Please note especially the advice relating to students travelling from or through Hong Kong which has recently been updated by the Department of Health.

Students who have been in the Hubei Province of China

Students who have been in the Hubei Province of China must be isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving the Hubei Province, other than for seeking individual medical care. They are not able to attend school, school events, day care centres or residential colleges. This also applies to parents/carers, staff, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites and at school events.

Students returning from mainland China (excluding Hubei Province of China)

Students arriving from (including transiting through) mainland China must be isolated in their home for 14 days from the time they leave mainland China. They are not able to attend school, school events, day care centres or residential colleges.

Students returning from Hong Kong (including transiting through) prior to 1 February

Students who returned from (including transiting through) Hong Kong prior to 1 February are being asked to stay at home for 14 days after leaving Hong Kong.

Students returning from Hong Kong (including transiting through) on or from 1 February

Students arriving from (including transiting through) Hong Kong on or from 1 February not displaying any symptoms may attend school. If they develop symptoms, they should not attend school and immediately seek medical advice.

Students in close contact with a confirmed case

If a student has been informed by Public Health authorities they are a close contact of a confirmed case of the Novel Coronavirus, irrespective of whether they have developed symptoms, they cannot attend school, school events, day care centres or residential colleges until their local public health unit informs them that it is safe for them to do so. This also applies to parents/carers, staff, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites and at school events. Evidence from the public health authority is required for the student to return to school.

A point of difference I would like to stress in this communication is the immediate and direct effect of families not adhering to this request on students at Saint Norbert College. We do have members of our College community with complicated pre-existing health issues whose lives are potentially at risk if they were to contract the Novel coronavirus.

I know that this situation has the potential to cause significant issues with respect to care arrangements for your children not attending school. I hope that you will understand that the option to keep your child at home during any potential incubation period is precautionary and designed to minimise the potential transmission of the Novel coronavirus.

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Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) is working closely with the Department of Education and health authorities to monitor the situation, and further advice will be provided as required. In addition to this, a Coronavirus update page www.cewa.edu.au/novel-coronavirus-update/ has been added to the CEWA website and provides general information and resources for parents.

Should you wish to access more information about the virus, including a parent factsheet, please access the [Department of Health website](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus) at <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus> which has more information on the virus and a **WA Coronavirus Hotline, on 1800 300 243.**

If your child will be away from school for the reasons outlined above, please contact the school to let us know when they were last in Hubei Province of China, mainland China or Hong Kong and to discuss any support for your child's learning while they are absent from school.

We will ensure that students' good standing is not impacted where they are absent through isolation as outlined above.

Thank you for your support in this significant public health matter.

Yours sincerely



Simon Harvey
PRINCIPAL