



St. Norbert  
College

Monday 3 February 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I continue to provide you with the latest advice from the Department of Health regarding the Novel coronavirus.

Ministers for Education and Health have requested that students who have travelled to, or transited through, China or Hong Kong in the past two weeks be asked to stay away from school for a period of 14 days from the date they returned to Australia. This request applies to children in all schools, including Catholic, Independent and Government.

Consequently, I am writing to request that you keep your child or children away from school should the above apply to them. Current medical advice is that while the risk of the virus being transmitted in Australia is low, this voluntary exclusion will cover the incubation period. Should your child not exhibit any symptoms for 14 days after returning to Australia, he/she may attend 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.

Please contact the school office on 9350 5433 if you will be keeping your child at home because of recent travel to or transiting through China or Hong Kong. I would also request that you provide the school with the anticipated period of absence.

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/](http://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.**

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

Yours sincerely

Simon Harvey  
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