

COVID19 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 1 (March 13 2020)

Dear Parents/Carers and students

NT Christian Schools is committed to doing all that it can to reduce the risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19) entering our schools or being passed on within our community.

We can only do this with your full support and cooperation and that of everyone else in the College community.

NT Christian Schools will continue to follow advice for it's schools from the Australian and Northern Territory governments. You can access Australian Government advice at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>. If you scroll down the page you will find a heading '**For parents of school-aged children**'. Click on the link below the heading for an update with information for schools, early childhood centres, students and parents. It provides general information and responses to key questions.

Our first and foremost priority is the health and well-being of all students and staff. Our schools are emphasising practices for students on washing hands, coughing and sneezing etiquette and other relevant hygiene practices. Please reinforce these practices at home.

NT Christian Schools will continue to scrutinise and monitor practices such as cleaning and sharing of equipment to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

To help minimise any spread of illness, no student, parent/caregiver, staff member or volunteer is to attend school if they are unwell with symptoms consistent with coronavirus. This also applies if attendance is inconsistent with Government recommendations for people returning from specified overseas travel, including those contained on www.smarttraveller.gov.au

Parents and carers please know, if a student, staff member or volunteer becomes unwell at school, they will be set apart from other students and required to leave as soon as possible.

Parents/caregivers must not send children to their school if they are unwell with symptoms consistent with coronavirus. We request that you immediately advise your school if your child or a close family member has symptoms consistent with the coronavirus.

The following advice regarding self-isolation and mass gatherings has been provided by the

Department of Education this afternoon (13 March).

Self-isolation advice

If you are in doubt, remember to go back to the consistent advice that continues to come from the health authorities.

- People who are not sick are urged **not** to seek COVID-19 testing.
- If you are sick with symptoms and meet the criteria i.e. you have travelled overseas in the last 14 days or have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, then you will be tested.
- If you are sick but **do not meet the criteria** – you will **not** be tested.
- More broadly, if you are sick, please don't attend work or school.
- For the latest information go to the Australian Government Department of Health website: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
- You can also contact the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

Mass Gatherings

This afternoon the Chief Minister for the Northern Territory publicly advised that:

“While the spread of the virus continues to be low, Australia’s Chief Health and Medical Officers have recommended that, from Monday, governments advise against organised, non-essential gatherings of 500 or more people.

This does not include essential gatherings such as going to school, university, work, public transport or airports.”

Please find a link below to a video message from Professor Di Stephens, the Deputy Health Officer for the Northern Territory Department of Health.

[Video message from Professor Di Stephens to distribute with staff and families.](#)

While the Northern Territory community currently has had limited exposure to the COVID-19 virus, we recognise that across Australia, schools have been faced with a possibility of school closures due to confirmed cases. NT Christian Schools will always keep our community informed of our current proactive approach to this now confirmed pandemic (WHO, 11 March 2020). Our schools are preparing plans to continue to engage with our students during any prolonged period of absence.

We will keep you informed. If, in the meantime, you have any questions or comments, please contact your school.

I encourage us all as a community to pray for the good health of all our families and protection of all those in the broader community over the time to come, and to stringently follow the guidelines in order to protect ourselves and the most vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely,

Phoebe van Bentum

CEO