



# ST LAURENCE'S COLLEGE

*A Catholic School for boys in the Edmund Rice Tradition*

16 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I write in relation to the changing requirements in relation to the spread of COVID-19. You would be aware that yesterday the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison outlined a national strategy to mitigate the spread of the virus.

At the briefing yesterday the Prime Minister stated:

- All international travel arrivals will be required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. This is effective from Midnight Sunday 15/3/2020.
- Australian Schools will remain open and respond to any confirmed cases as required based on advice from the relevant Health Authorities.
- Good personal hygiene and social distancing will continue to be important in mitigating the spread of the virus.
- Mass gatherings of more than 500 people should not proceed, particularly in an enclosed environment.
- Schools need to consider all non-essential gatherings.

Our students are being educated around appropriate hygiene standards and social distancing.

Good Hygiene includes the following:

- Regularly wash hands with liquid soap (or if soap is not available to use hand sanitiser) before and after eating, and after going to the bathroom, or after contact with others;
- Cover your mouth with your elbow or tissue while coughing or sneezing and dispose of used tissues immediately; and
- Avoid touching your face and mouth.

Social distancing measures at St Laurence's College include:

- School Assemblies are cancelled until further advice.
- Some College events will be cancelled, particularly where the number exceed 500 and other schools are involved. These will be cancelled on a case by case basis and information will be advised by email or on the College App.
- Students are to avoid physical contact such as handshaking and hugging.

Should your son be unwell we ask that the young man remain at home. I draw your attention to the following symptoms.

- Sore throat
- Continuous cough or sneezing
- Extreme nasal congestion
- Fever at or above 37.3 degrees Celsius

If a member of the family is being tested for COVID-19, I ask that your son remain at home at least until test results are known. Should your son test positive, I ask that the College be notified immediately.

#### Co-curricular Activities

As this week progresses the AIC Management Committee will seek advice from relevant sporting bodies concerning the continuation of Term I Sport and Training. Information will be made available through the College App as it becomes available. It is possible that announcements may vary depending on the nature of the Sport.

All international tours were cancelled some time ago. Discussion about internal tours and excursions will be taken on a case by case basis.

This situation is rapidly changing, and we have developed plans for all contingencies, even the unlikely scenario of a short-term or longer-term school closure. All students have been instructed to take laptops and chargers home each night should the learning platform move to online. Staff are receiving training to support this possibility.

It is likely that over the coming months some students will need to be tested for COVID-19. We will keep all families affected informed as required. Should a community member test positive, we will be advised by Queensland Health and the College will abide by all requirements in the interests of student and staff safety.

I thank you all for the great support that you have given during the past few weeks. Caution not Panic is required at this time.

Regards,

Chris Leadbetter  
Principal