



# St Mark's

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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A School of the Anglican Schools Commission Inc.

Thursday 5 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

While media and public commentary in relation to Coronavirus (Covid-19) continues to raise concern, public health authorities are advising that the current risk remains low in Western Australia. However, precautionary measures are necessary to ensure the safest possible environment for our children.

The following measures are being implemented in all Anglican Schools Commission (ASC) schools.

As a result, effective 4 March, all school-related international travel (groups and individuals) is not to proceed until further notice. This advice applies to all students and staff.

I appreciate that your child may be disappointed, and you may have questions in relation to this advice. Please direct any questions to me in the first instance at [principal@stmarks.wa.edu.au](mailto:principal@stmarks.wa.edu.au).

The ASC has set the highest standard of precaution for the safety and wellbeing of all staff and students in ASC schools. Be assured that our school will continue to respond to advice from the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the ASC. We will provide updated advice to our school community as appropriate.

With the Easter holiday break approaching, please be aware that the situation is evolving and that the government may change their position significantly on overseas travel by next month. If you are travelling, this could mean that your child/ren may need to be isolated for a period of time upon return to Australia even if they are not returning from countries currently listed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as 'Do Not Travel'.

The Australian Government, through the Smart Traveller website, has raised their level of advice to:

- *Do Not Travel* for both China and Iran
- *Exercise a High Degree of Caution* for South Korea, Italy, Japan and Mongolia.

All families should consider carefully their need to travel overseas at this time. If you do plan to travel overseas to any country, please complete the form available [HERE](#), so that we can be made aware of your travel plans, including the period of travel and country/countries you are visiting.

We require students who have travelled (or are travelling) to mainland China and Iran to be isolated for a period of 14 days on their return to Australia. Students who travel to South Korea, Italy, Japan and Mongolia (or any country listed by the Australian Government as *Exercise a High Degree of Caution* or above) are also required to be isolated for a period of 14 days as travel advice levels are raised for these countries. Please be aware of this as you make plans for personal travel.

Please also be aware that there could be quarantine implications for students who have family members living in their household who travel on a regular basis and become ill with this virus. If a member of your family travels overseas to other countries at any time and develops symptoms within 14 days of returning to Australia, we recommend that your child/ren be isolated from school until they have seen a doctor.

Additionally, this week all ASC schools will enact a greater emphasis on hygiene, particularly in relation to washing hands and coughing/sneezing into a tissue or covering coughs/sneezes with elbows and not hands. The ASC has also implemented a school-wide 'no physical contact' policy from today while the Coronavirus precautions are in place. In particular, people should refrain from handshaking or similar and replace this with other appropriate gestures of acknowledgement. Please refer to the guidelines available through this [LINK](#).

Thank you to all families for your ongoing co-operation with this matter. Our school will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated on any changes to the above information.

Yours sincerely

Steven Davies  
Principal