



St Mark's

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

St Marks Drive Hillarys WA 6025
PO Box 231 Hillarys WA 6923
T: (08) 9403 1300
www.stmarks.wa.edu.au
A School of the Anglican Schools Commission Inc.

Friday 13 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

UPDATE ON COVID-19

I write to provide an update on St Mark's ongoing response to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak. You will be aware our School already has taken a number of precautionary steps. Yesterday I attended a meeting with all Anglican Schools Commission (ASC) Principals, the CEO and senior staff focusing on the ASC schools' response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The following update reflects the position being taken by all ASC schools and provides you with details of our School's current situation.

School-Related Travel

Earlier I wrote to families to confirm that all school-related international travel by staff and students in all ASC schools had been postponed until further notice, in line with the directive from Government. The School has since cancelled upcoming international travel. This ban applies for the foreseeable future and will be reassessed by the ASC once Government removes the current restriction. No international travel will take place between now and the end of July. The ban may be extended well beyond this period. Any future school group travel planned for late 2020 will be assessed as the situation progresses; however, the health and safety of our students and staff will underpin all decisions taken.

In relation to planned school group or individual travel within Australia, the School will continue to carefully monitor the situation and take advice from authorities. We will keep families informed of any changes to these plans. The ASC's current position allows group and individual travel within Australia at this stage. This may change at any time and the decision is at the Principal's discretion. Specifically for St Mark's, the Ski Trip to Mt Hotham scheduled for July will run, but this position may change at any time as advice evolves in coming days and weeks.

We will ensure that any decision on the viability of planned school groups/tours is done as early as practicable to reduce the risk of payments being made on trips that do not proceed. However, tours/trips/camps may be cancelled at short notice in the interest of student and staff health and safety or in accordance with Government directives.

School Holiday Overseas Travel

As we approach the Easter holidays, we ask that families carefully consider any overseas travel as COVID-19 spreads rapidly across the globe. School families and staff are urged not to travel overseas for holidays this April.

In line with evolving advice from the Health Department and our duty of care to the School community, **we ask that all school families and staff notify us of any upcoming plans to travel outside of Australia between now and the end of July 2020.**

Please complete the online form to advise us of your travel plans. The form is available [HERE](#).

Please be aware that any international travel to areas cited by the Australian Government as restricted will result in the observation of a quarantine period upon return to Australia and students will not be able to return to school for 14 days. Please note this list of countries may change at any time, including while you are overseas.

Additionally, many countries are introducing new entry or movement restrictions in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 which may disrupt your travel plans.

To keep up to date with the latest information and advice, we ask that you refer to the [Smart Traveller](#) and [Australian Government Department of Health](#) websites.

Current advice is that anyone returning from Mainland China, Iran, Italy or South Korea is required to isolate themselves for 14 days from their departure date from that country. The Australian Government also considers the following countries to be at moderate risk for COVID-19: Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia (including Bali), Japan, Singapore and Thailand, however, this list may change at any time

School Events

We are monitoring advice from health authorities on events and larger gatherings. At this point in time, most school-related events will proceed as planned but this may change at any time. All decisions around events and gatherings will be taken in the interest of our students, families and staff. We will notify you separately about the cancellation of any school events.

Camps and Excursions

Camps and excursions are proceeding as normal at this time. Specifically for St Mark's, the upcoming Year 7 Rottneest Camp will run, but this may change in the coming days. The School has undertaken due diligence to confirm that providers and venues have appropriate health and safety practices in place. Additional attention will be given to hygiene and in particular, handwashing and sneeze/cough etiquette during this time. Any student who is unwell should not attend school, school excursions or camps in the interest of the health of fellow students and staff.

We ask students/family members to refrain from attending school or school events if:

- **You are feeling unwell or displaying symptoms of the virus such as:**
 - fever
 - flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and headaches
 - difficulty breathing
- **You have travelled within 14 days to [higher risk countries](#)**
- **You or a family member are awaiting test results for COVID-19**

What if Staff and Students are Unwell?

If a student or staff member is unwell, we ask that they remain at home and do not attend School. If a case of COVID-19 is suspected of a child whilst they are under our care, based on their symptoms and travel history, we will isolate them and follow health guidelines.

To assist us in keeping our students safe, if a member of your family is unwell and is suspected of having COVID-19, please keep your child/ren at home until test results are clear or they have seen a doctor.

Please notify the School if your child or a family member living in the same house is being tested for COVID-19. This will allow us to support the student through any quarantine period away from school.

School Closures

Every care is being taken to support the wellbeing of all students, staff and our extended community. However, we are dealing with a rapidly evolving situation. If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed within our community, we will seek direction from the appropriate authorities. The School may be asked to close for a period of time.

If the School is required to temporarily suspend operations, we will be able to continue our education programs through online delivery. Educational programs will be delivered remotely for any students who are unable to attend school or in the case of a required school closure. This will be particularly important for our senior students to enable them to continue in line with the requirements for their courses. We will communicate further about more detailed plans to provide for distance learning.

The COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly, and we will continue to update you as required. If you have any concerns, please contact the School at principal@stmarks.wa.edu.au

I thank our school community for your support. Let me assure you that despite the uncertainty surrounding the global outbreak, all our efforts are going into providing a safe and secure school environment for our students.

Yours sincerely



Steven Davies
Principal