



St Patrick's College  
LAUNCESTON

22 May 2020

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*From the Office of the Principal*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: Resumption of Face-to-Face Learning - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Processes

I am writing to inform you of the internal processes we have been developing regarding the resumption of face-to-face learning at St Patrick's College. We are excited to welcome our Year 11 & 12 and Year 10 TASC students back on Monday and remaining students in the week to follow.

In preparation of all students returning, the College will be implementing a number of measures to minimise the risk and spread of infection including increased hygiene measures and limitations of student activities.

Whilst density rules are not applicable to students, visitors must continue to practice physical distancing measures and parents/guardians are reminded not to enter the College premises unless absolutely necessary.

Additionally, we have developed a plan in order to contain the risk of spread within the College community in the unlikely event we are directed to close due to a staff member or student returning a positive coronavirus test. We are hopeful there will be no requirement to enact this, however wish to inform our parent/guardian community of the process we will follow so we are best prepared should the need arise.

#### **COVIDSAFE MOBILE PHONE APP & TEMPORARY PERMISSION FOR STUDENTS TO CARRY MOBILE PHONE ON PERSON**

We strongly encourage all parents/guardians to ensure students with mobile phones have downloaded the official COVIDSafe app which has been developed by the Australian Government Department of Health to keep the community safe from coronavirus.

COVIDSafe uses the Bluetooth technology on mobile phones to look for other devices with COVIDSafe installed. If a student or staff member, or someone they have been in contact with is diagnosed with COVID-19, the close contact information securely stored on phones can be uploaded and used, with consent, by health officials to quickly inform people who've been exposed to the virus.

Commencing on Monday, 25 May (until advised otherwise), it is our hope that all students on campus with mobile phones have download the COVIDSafe app and are encouraged to carry their mobile phones on them at all times. Phones must be kept on silent and remain in the students' pocket during class time and students who do not adhere to this requirement will be appropriately disciplined.

#### **TEMPORARY COLLEGE CLOSURE PLAN**

##### **1. Student Lockdown to Reduce Movement**

In the event that a staff member or student tests positive to coronavirus and we are directed to temporarily close during school hours, class teachers will be notified that students are to remain in their classroom to avoid movement within the College. Desks will be wiped down and students will use hand sanitiser prior to leaving the classroom for collection from campus.



## 2. Parent/Guardian Notification

The College will contact parents/guardians initially via SMS, with more explicit details to follow in a letter which will be emailed or posted to those few parents/guardians without an email address.

If we receive notification outside of school hours, parents/guardians will receive an SMS advising not to send their child/ren to the College until further notice.

## 3. Student Collection from Campus

If we receive notification of the need to temporarily close within school hours, parents/guardians will be sent an SMS advising to collect their child/ren as soon as possible from the following collection points:

- Year 7 & 8 students: Front of the Main Campus Reception or Middle School
- Year 9 students: Croagh Patrick Campus
- Year 10-12 students: Swimming Pool Car Park

Parents/guardians should SMS their child/ren to advise once they are on campus and ready to collect them. If their child/ren do not have a mobile phone, parents/guardians are permitted to park at the above areas and enter the Front Office on the Main Campus (for Year 7,8,10,11 & 12 students) or Croagh Patrick Campus Reception (for Year 9 students), ensuring to practice appropriate social distancing. Staff will then arrange for students to leave their classrooms. This should only be for students who are uncontactable only, as we simply cannot cater for all parents/guardians to do this.

It is anticipated that there may be a minimal number of students who are not able to be collected and they will be supervised by staff until such time as they catch buses or are collected after school.

## 4. Process Following Staff & Student Exit from College

The College will engage qualified, licensed cleaning professionals to conduct deep cleaning and sanitisation following health authority guidelines using approved disinfectants while closed.

During this time we will determine as best as possible a list of staff and students who are identified as having close contact with the person who has tested positive to the coronavirus. Contact is defined as someone who has been face to face for at least 15 minutes or been in the same closed space for at least two hours with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 when that person was infectious. This process will be much more accurate and efficient if students and staff are using the COVIDSafe app.

Members of the College community who are identified as having close contact with the infected person will be informed and directed by Public Health to undergo a COVID-19 test and must enter self-isolation.

The Learning@Home program will not be conducted whilst the College is temporarily closed and parents/guardians will be informed of when students can return to school as soon as this is known.

## COVID-19 TESTING & ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

The Tasmanian Government has expanded its COVID-19 testing program and is now encouraging people to seek a COVID-19 test referral from a GP or the Public Health Hotline should they have any of the following:

- a fever
- runny nose
- cough
- sore/itchy throat
- shortness of breath



Where a member of the immediate household of a student seeks a referral for a COVID-19 test from a GP or Public Health, that student does not need to self-isolate unless the member of their immediate household returns a positive result.

Where a student seeks a referral for a COVID-19 test from a GP or Public Health, then that student must not enter the College premises until they have received their result and it is confirmed as negative. Should they return a positive result, then all members of the household must not enter the College until the member of the household with the COVID-19 infection has been informed by Public Health it is safe for that person to return to their usual activities, and other members of the household have completed their 14-day self-isolation period without developing COVID-19 symptoms or have been cleared by Public Health.

Should a student or any member of their immediate household be directed (e.g. as part of a contact tracing program such as the NW cluster investigations) by Public Health to undergo a COVID-19 test, then all members of the household including the student must not enter the College premises until the person(s) required to undertake testing has been informed by Public Health it is safe for that person(s) to return to their usual activities.

Should a student or any member of their immediate household be diagnosed as being infected with COVID-19 then all members of the household including the student must not enter the College premises until:

1. The person(s) required to undertake screening or testing has been informed by public health authorities it is safe for that person(s) to return to their usual activities.
2. Other members of the household have completed their 14-day self-isolation period without developing COVID-19 symptoms or have been cleared by public health authorities.

In instances of suspected or confirmed coronavirus, parents and guardians must ensure to contact the College, even while closed, on 6341 9988. Please follow the prompts to leave a message to report any students with suspected, or confirmed coronavirus.

## COLDS & FLU

Any student with a cold or influenza must stay home until no longer contagious as determined either by a medical practitioner with infectious disease qualifications or as per the following guidance regarding typical contagion periods.

Type	When you're first contagious	When you're no longer contagious
Flu <sup>1</sup>	1 day before symptoms start	5-7 days after you get sick with symptoms
Cold <sup>2</sup>	1-2 days before symptoms start	Until symptoms are no longer present

1. US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

2. UK National Health Service

## COMMUNICATION

We will continue to communicate with our parent community in regards to any developments and I emphasise the importance of regularly checking your emails, Schoolbox and the College Instagram and Facebook pages to ensure you receive any important updates. In addition, you can refer to the College website (<https://www.stpatricks.tas.edu.au/covid-19-updates>) to access copies of letters that have previously been distributed and other important information.

I again emphasise that the Temporary College Closure Plan is precautionary only, but ensures that our College community are best prepared in the event that this is required.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and look forward to welcoming our students back on campus soon.

Kind regards,



**Mr Tony Daley**  
Principal

