



Marian College

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Dear Parents and Guardians

We all now know that the coronavirus (COVID-19) is having a significant impact across the globe as governments implement plans to prevent the further transmission of the virus. Our first priority at Marian College is the health and safety of our school community. I want to reassure you that the school is well prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus). We are provided with the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers, the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd and Kildare Ministries to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak. Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

I am aware of concerns about the disruption to teaching, especially among families of students in Year 12. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which is responsible for the VCE, is aware of the situation and has advised that it will work with schools to ensure continuity of learning for all students.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason. Advise them about essential hygiene habits. Please refer to the recent edition of the Marian News for further advice
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

Upcoming Overseas Travel

It is usual practice that parents/guardians inform the College if their daughter is travelling overseas during the school term. With the upcoming school holidays approaching and in an effort to be proactive, I am asking families who will be travelling overseas with their daughters over the coming term break to contact the College (principal@mariansw.catholic.edu.au) to inform us of your travel destination. This is in an effort to be proactive about our decisions regarding possible quarantine periods for the protection of all students at the College, and especially for those students who are more vulnerable if exposed to the virus due to pre-existing medical conditions.

We will continue to work with the travel advice provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and will only ask families to keep their daughters quarantined upon their return from holiday **if this is the advice from DFAT**. The Australian Government has also updated travel restrictions as outlined below:

- The extension to existing travel restrictions now applies to visitors from South Korea, Italy, Iran and mainland China. Visitors who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents, or their dependants, will not be allowed entry into Australia.

- Parents/guardians/carers should make sure that any child returning from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) from 1 February, Iran from 1 March, South Korea from 5 March or Italy from 11 March, is isolated at home and should not attend school until 14 days after they were last in mainland China, Iran, South Korea or Italy. This advice also applies to any impacted staff.
- The Australian Government has advised that visitors from Italy will be subject to enhanced health screening and temperature testing arrangements.
- The Commonwealth Government has also recommended against Australians travelling to mainland China, Iran or South Korea at the current time.

As you would understand the situation in relation to COVID-19 changes daily. We receive regular updates from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and keep up-to-date with the travel warnings issued by Smart Traveller. We will make decisions based on the advice that we receive.

I would like to reiterate that it is not our intention to ask students to remain in quarantine simply because they have travelled overseas. We will only require quarantine if this is the advice from DFAT. Currently this is in place for travellers returning from China, Iran, South Korea and Italy.

Families who have already advised the College of travel plans are not required to make contact with us again.

The Department of Education and Training's [coronavirus webpage](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx) (<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>) is the key source for the latest advice and information, including translated advice.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>.

The CECV will continue to review health and travel advice in collaboration with the DET and health authorities as the situation evolves and we will continue to provide you with updated advice as things change.

I thank you in anticipation for your cooperation. Any information you share with us will remain confidential to the Office of the Principal. Please contact myself, or the Assistant to the Principal – Student Wellbeing, Ms. Kerrie Williams, should you wish to discuss this matter with us.

Yours sincerely



Raymond Pisani
Principal