



St Francis de Sales Catholic Primary School

626 Pascoe Vale Road Oak Park 3046

Tel: (03) 9306 9444 Email: principal@sfoakpark.catholic.edu.au

ABN: 87 246 330568



School Note

Information for Parents – Update number 6 on Novel Coronavirus

15 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to previous communication, as you can appreciate, this is a rapidly evolving situation and therefore advice to school communities will change quickly.

Our first priority at St Francis de Sales is the health and safety of our school community. The wellbeing of your child continues to be of paramount importance to me and our school staff. I will continue to share information and advice about the coronavirus outbreak as it becomes available.

Clearly our children are currently being exposed to an environment of heightened anxiety and widespread media coverage of this issue and I am sure that this will impact on the levels of anxiety we see in our children. The wellbeing of your child continues to be of paramount importance to me and our school staff will continue to provide a calm, normal environment to support all children at this time.

Without question this week will be dominated by the unprecedented set of circumstances that the world finds itself in relating to the Coronavirus pandemic. **The school is following all advice as shared from Catholic Education Melbourne.**

The latest advice that I have is that there are no plans for the mass closure of schools in the immediate future.

As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to increase across Victoria, inline with events cancelled and/or postponed for Catholic Education Week, it is not wise to bring together large numbers of students, teachers and the public when the risks associated with the coronavirus are significant. We have therefore made the decision to cancel or postpone this week's events, namely our assembly on Monday 16 March 2020 and our Parents and Friends planning meeting on Monday 16 March 2020. As you can appreciate, the decision to cancel these events was not made lightly.

With regards to the Confirmation Commitment Mass being held on Saturday 21 March 2020, the school is seeking advice from Catholic Education and I will pass on any communication as soon as I receive it.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact my office should you have any concerns. Thank you for your support as we work together to keep our students safe.

Kind regards

John Rudd | Principal | john.rudd@sfoakpark.catholic.edu.au



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Please notify the school immediately

Please notify the school immediately:

- if your child has a **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19; or
- Is a **close contact** of a **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. "**Close contact**" is defined by DHHS as someone who has had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case, or shared a closed space with someone for more than two hours with a confirmed case.

Critical Role

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
- 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.

Good Hygiene Practices

Good hygiene practices are the most effective means of minimising the spread of COVID-19. Please encourage your child to:

- cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into their elbow
- dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash their hands afterwards
- wash their hands regularly, using soap and water, including after using the toilet and before eating. Hands should be washed for at least 20 seconds

Resources

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

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

You can also access further information and updates from the following websites:

- For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>
- For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>
- For international updates: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>
- WHO resources: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Communication

May I take this opportunity to remind our families, the primary means of communication is through our SkoolBag App. The SkoolBag App is used to successfully communicate to parents and families within the school of all important news, events, newsletters, notes, e-forms and other important information about your child's education. It is recommended that all families have access to the SkoolBag App.

Link to SkoolBag <https://mogproducts.com.au/skoolbag/installation-instructions>

Updates on the Coronavirus can also be found on our website, <https://www.sfoakpark.catholic.edu.au/news-events/newsletters/>

