

10 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are aware, St Dominic's Priory College continues to closely monitor the rapidly evolving global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. To ensure the safety of our students and the wider St Dominic's Priory College community, a key aspect of our action plan is preventing the transmission of COVID-19 through the management of return travellers. Until recently this has largely been isolated to travel from China.

In addition to China, several other locations have recently increased in transmission risk and we expect to see an increasing number of locations, to be significantly affected by the outbreak in the near future.

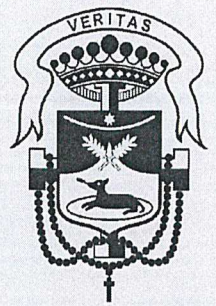
St Dominic's Priory College is following the guidance of the Australian Government in relation to travel restrictions and self-quarantine. We refer members of our College community to the Department of Health website link below for a list of high-risk countries and a wealth of additional information. As the situation changes regularly and rapidly, we encourage regular reference to the website for up-to-date information.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert#travellers-and-visitors>

In accordance with the Department of Health advice, we ask that any student or staff member who has returned from travel to a high-risk country, or who is in direct contact with someone who has returned from such a location, administer a self-quarantine period from the College for 14 days from the date of return, or last contact. Alternatively, if no signs or symptoms appear then a medical certificate can be provided to the College.

We are also aware that additional risk of transmission may exist in developing countries where access to health care is limited and the true nature of the outbreak may be unknown. We are monitoring information relating to global transport hubs such as Singapore and United Arab Emirates (UAE) where there may be exposure to travellers from diverse locations. We are also aware that countries such as Thailand are being used as pathways to enter Australia from China and therefore may be at greater risk of transmission. As this situation is evolving, the College may at any time impose a self-quarantine requirement for those travelling from countries that are considered by the College to be high-risk, in addition to the recommendations of the Department of Health.

The safety of our students and community is paramount. We therefore encourage families and staff, where possible, to reconsider the need for international travel to at risk locations. This is of particular importance for those who may be planning travel during the upcoming Term 1 School Holidays.



St Dominic's
Priory
College Ltd

Established 1884

ABN 25 085 110 379

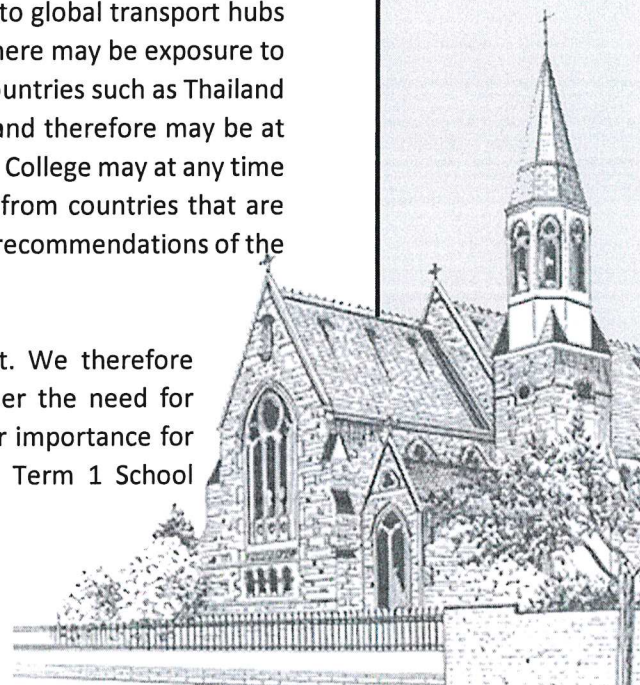
139 Molesworth Street,

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At this time, we also remind our community of the importance of maintaining good hygiene practice. This includes:

- Washing hands often with soap and water
- Covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Avoiding close contact with others including touching
- Maintaining a distance of at least 1 metre from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

The Archdiocese of Adelaide has also advised that we observe the following temporary protocols:

- Cease distribution of Holy Communion by Chalice for the time being.
- Cease distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue.
- Ensure all Ministers of Holy Communion clean their hands with an alcohol-based gel before and after distributing Holy Communion and to avoid skin to skin contact.
- Avoid physical contact during the Sign of Peace.

If you or your child becomes unwell and think you may have symptoms of COVID-19, seek medical attention and make sure you call ahead to advise healthcare professionals of your situation. The College should also be notified.

We are mindful that the risk of infection to the elderly is high. We will monitor visitors to the College. We are regularly reminding our students and staff of good hygiene practices and have increased our frequency of cleaning, including door handles, hand-rails and high frequency public spaces.

'Casual Contact' has been defined as 'someone who has been in the same general area as someone else who has been tested positive for the coronavirus while infectious'. A 'casual contact' is someone who has had less than 15 minutes face-to-face contact with a symptomatic confirmed case in any setting or has shared a closed space with a symptomatic person for less than two hours. Please note that casual contacts do not need to be excluded from work or school while well. However, they must closely monitor their health and if there are symptoms then self-isolation is advised along with contacting their doctor.

In the interest of managing risk, the interstate trips planned for this semester have been cancelled. Whilst this will be disappointing for the girls, we are sure there will be other opportunities to experience learning beyond the classroom. At this time there are no plans to cancel the Year 10 Geography trip to Kangaroo Island, the Year 7 Camp or the Generations in Jazz trip to Mt Gambier. However, we will take advice as provided for each of these events and we will keep parents/guardians informed.

We appreciate your ongoing cooperation and understanding of our efforts to keep our community safe.

Kind regards


Ms Helen Steele
Principal



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