

31 January 2020



Dear Sancta Maria College Families

Re: Novel Coronavirus Update

Further to my letter earlier this week (28 January 2020) this communication is to provide you with an update to the international concern for the Novel Coronavirus.

The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health have provided schools with an information update. The information provided in the previous letter this week remains unchanged. We are advised there are no confirmed cases of the 2019-nCoV in New Zealand to date. The risk of an ongoing outbreak in New Zealand remains low and the Ministry of Health is monitoring the situation very closely.

The college has **no** international or domestic students arriving from the areas highly affected in China. It is of low-risk to our school. However, we have procedures in place as advised by the MoE and Ministry of Health to err on the side of caution and minimise any risk to students and staff returning to school. The health of students and staff is a priority and I encourage you to follow these steps:

- For any Sancta Maria College student who has visited China and arrived back in the last two weeks, they are encouraged to delay their starting back at school for 14 days by voluntarily staying at home. Please advise the College of the absence by notifying the School Student Centre (Mrs Blackbourn) on Ph 274 4081 on Extn 273.
- School work will be made available to students online. The Dean will be in contact with individual families to arrange this.
- As always, anyone who is unwell should **not** be at school. If you have a particular health concern about your child contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 or your doctor for medical advice. The Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.
- If a student attends school while showing symptoms (fever, coughing and difficulty breathing), you will be contacted by the College and requested to delay the return of the student to school for 14 days (the infectious period of the specific disease) or until such time as your doctor gives an all-clear enabling their return to resume studies. Please provide a medical certificate upon return.

As a reminder to minimise any risk, we recommend:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash hands frequently, especially after contact with ill people or their environment.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory illness infection should practice cough etiquette: maintain distance, cover the mouth, and cover coughs or sneezes with disposable cloths or clothing.
- Stay at home if unwell.

We continue to be provided with updates from the Ministry of Education who is working with the Ministry of Health to provide us with the most relevant and up-to-date information so that we are able to keep you informed.

Thank you again for your support and co-operation.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. J. Moore'.

Louise Moore
Principal