



COURTENAY GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

16th March 2020

Dear Parents,

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information- UPDATE

Please note the following **updated** information provided by the Victorian Department of Education and Training on 14th March, 2020.

Organised Gatherings

Any school event that involves attendance by community members who are not students or staff and where total attendance will exceed 500 should not proceed.

International Arrivals

Everyone arriving into Australia from overseas from midnight on the 15th March will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This includes staff and students.

Also includes any other relatives or friends of students who are returning from overseas travel. As they are required to self-isolate, they must not visit the school to pick up children or for any other reason.

Following this advice, I cancelled School Assembly in the gym for the morning of Monday 16th March. All school events that meet the above criteria will also be cancelled. You will be notified of these specific cancellations as they may approach.

- The Young Leaders Day excursion planned for this Friday 20th March has been cancelled.
- The Easter Bonnet Parade day will go ahead on the last day of the term; however, there will not be a whole school parade. Further details on this event will be provided to students and families closer to the date.

At this stage, the school is receiving daily advice from the Department of Education and Training, on how to operate in relation to the Coronavirus outbreak.

To date, the school has not been notified by any member of the school community of either a confirmed case of the Coronavirus, or a contact with a confirmed case of Coronavirus.

What we may need to do

If a staff member or student at the school is in one of the categories below, the school must report this to the Department of Health and Human Services.

- the person is a confirmed case of COVID-19
- the person is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

If the above categories apply to your child at the school, please notify the school office immediately.

Potential School Closure

There has been some speculation on whether Victorian government schools may close. The school is actively working on a **contingency plan** to continue the learning opportunities for our students, if this was the case. This may include online learning, in which teachers can communicate with students.

The school is currently supporting our students and staff to practise best hygiene practices; including the regular washing of hands throughout the day. We aim to keep school routines as 'normal' as we can, to reduce added anxiety for our students and staff.

If you have any further queries, please contact the school, or the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

Please find attached a poster we are using at school, provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, to reduce the risk of Coronavirus.

Regards
Marc de Ley
Principal

Reduce your risk of coronavirus

- **WASH** your hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. Dry with paper towel or hand dryer.
- **TRY** not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **COVER** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- **STAY** at home if you feel sick. If you take medication make sure you have enough.
- **PHONE** your doctor or the hotline – **1800 675 398** – if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- **CONTINUE** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep.
- **WEARING** a face mask is not necessary if you are well.
- **BUY** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60% alcohol.

Find out more
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you are concerned, call the
Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)
Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

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Health and Human Services