



COVID-19 Update – A special message from the Principal for Parents and Caregivers

17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I am writing to update you about the evolving situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19).

As you are aware, Iona College continues to work closely with the relevant state authorities, including Queensland Health and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission to monitor the situation, and identify and manage any impacts on schools. I thank you for your support to date as we navigate this situation.

I would like to make you aware that I have been advised today that two Iona students have been requested to self-isolate as a pre-caution while they await the results of tests for the Coronavirus. While we do not currently have any confirmed cases within our school, I will update the school community immediately should this change.

I wanted to make this information available to you so that you had accurate information about this matter. We will continue to work closely with QCEC and state authorities (including the Department of Education and Queensland Health). We will, as always stay in contact with appropriate authorities in order to keep our school community informed. I wanted to make this information available to you so that you can be alert to your own child's health.

I would like to reassure you that the health and well-being of your children remains our number one priority and assure you that we are following the advice of authorities.

The College is working very hard to manage the complex health and safety issues associated with COVID-19 situation. We will continue to act protectively based on the advice we receive. It is inevitable that the College will have students or staff who will need to be tested for COVID-19 as a result of Queensland Health protocols or who will be self-isolated as a result of a family member being tested. We will continue to manage the risks associated with these cases and follow the strict Queensland Health protocols. Authorities advise that transmission of COVID-19 is expected to rise in the community generally in the future. Like all schools, moving forward it will not be possible for the College to send a whole school communication every time a student or staff member is tested or self-isolated as this may potentially involve multiple communications per day.

Please be assured that Iona College will continue to strictly adhere to the guidelines outlined by Queensland Health and other authorities.

As we continue to navigate the challenges associated with this virus, I wanted to reiterate some of our earlier advice, if your child develops flu-like symptoms, please:

- keep your child at home;
- avoid close contact with others such as touching, kissing or hugging, or any mass gatherings, especially those involving other children;
- see a doctor or contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) immediately;
- seek medical advice if your child has other underlying medical conditions; and
- call ahead to the medical centre or doctor's surgery, advising of your child's symptoms.

IONA COLLEGE

A Catholic Boys' College conducted by The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



It is also important to continue to encourage your children to:

- wash their hands regularly with soap and water, particularly before and after eating, and after going to the toilet;
- use alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap is unavailable;
- cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of their elbow; and
- dispose of tissues in the bin immediately.

As always, further advice and information about the coronavirus is available on the Queensland Health website: <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus>

I thank you for your support in encouraging students' awareness of the additional need for strong health and hygiene practices as we work together to keep the community safe.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Goodwin
Principal