



**Pittwater House**

## From the Principal

28 January 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### Coronavirus

I write regarding the ongoing reports of an outbreak of Novel Coronavirus in the Wuhan district, in Hubei province, of China.

Whilst the advice from the Department of Health (Australian Government) is that they have well-established procedures to ensure people with illnesses travelling into Australia are detected, it is clear that it is still early in our understanding of the outbreak and, as such, Pittwater House believes that the best form of managing any potential risk to our community is to request the following:

We appreciate that there have been many families travelling during the holiday period:

- If you have recently visited the Wuhan district, Hubei province of China, **or**
- if you have been in close contact with someone who did, **or**
- been travelling in China during the holidays,

we ask that you refrain from sending your children to School until they have been back in Australia for at least 14 days.

As School starts on 29 January (for new students) and 30 January (for all students), your child will need to have been back in Australia by 15 January at the earliest if they are commencing on 29 January. If they arrived back in Australia after 15 January, they should not commence school until 14 days after their arrival date. During this time, you should be on alert for symptoms related to a fever or respiratory symptoms. These include a cough, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, a sore throat, or a runny nose. Please visit your local GP if these symptoms are present.

The School also understands that it is likely that some families will remain in China beyond the commencement of the school year due to the travel restrictions currently in place in certain cities.

If you have not visited China during the holidays, you should feel confident to send your child to School unless they have any of the above symptoms, in which case, as with other viruses, you should keep your child at home until the symptoms have cleared.

The containment of such a virus is dependent on individual behaviour and thus we would ask that you consider whether you should delay your child's return to School.

We thank you for your assistance with this emerging situation and look forward to welcoming our students in the coming days. If you have been travelling in China, we ask that you are in contact with the Deputy Principal, Mr James Walmsley, on Wednesday 29 January, to alert us to your situation.

If you have any questions, the following website provides regular updates on the virus <http://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus> or you can contact our Nurses directly on 9972 5734. All other questions should be directed to our Deputy Principal, Mr James Walmsley on [james.walmsley@tphs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:james.walmsley@tphs.nsw.edu.au) or 9972 5774.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Hillier'.

Dr Nancy Hillier  
Principal and CEO

*Ref: NH/CO*