



Pittwater House

From the Deputy Principal

6 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Coronavirus

As you are all aware information of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be updated and is flooding the media, however, it is important that as a school we communicate our response and issues of concern in our context. Already it has had some impact on Pittwater House, with us quarantining all students who returned from China at the start of the school year for appropriate periods. We have also postponed some events, such as a Year 10 visit to Royal North Shore Hospital this week as part of the Party Program. In this ever evolving situation there are a couple of key messages we would like to communicate:

International Travel

Our families love to travel and we can understand that trips have already been planned by some families in the April and July holiday. However, it is important to consider the ramifications of this in regards to quarantine. Currently, any student who returns from China, Iran, the Republic of Korea and Italy will be required to isolate themselves for 14 days prior to being able to attend school. It is worth noting, that this list is evolving and we will continue to follow the advice of the Australian Government Department of Health Website on which countries are of higher risk. More information can be found at <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>. Students should avoid contact with family members or members of the community who have recently returned from any of these locations as well.

Health and Hygiene

As with all colds and influenzas, the best protection against the Coronavirus is good hygiene and sensible precautions around spreading germs. Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defense against most viruses.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, dispose of tissues, use anti-viral hand sanitizer or wash hands well. Cough into your elbow rather than onto your hands.
- Do not share drink bottles or other utensils.
- If you show any signs of illness (as with all colds and influenzas), avoid contact with others. Therefore, please stay home from school and seek medical advice.

Please note the school has wall mounted hand sanitizer dispensers around the school as well as soap in all bathrooms. Students are encouraged to ensure, if not already, that regular use of these products is an important part of preventing the spread of disease.

Sick children

Our procedures around this are unchanged. We encourage strongly any child that is sick remains at home. Any child who identifies as being unwell whilst at School will have their parents contacted by our Health Centre and they will be required to collect their child.

Personal Contact

We will be hoping to keep the whole community as healthy as possible. This includes the teaching staff. Therefore, please don't be offended if the usual courtesies such as hand shaking at parent teacher interviews or other similar events are dispensed with.

We will continue to keep our community informed as new information evolves. I have attached to this email a fact sheet in English and in Chinese aimed at schools and early childhood centres. However, if you have any further questions, please feel free to be in contact.

Yours sincerely



James Walmsley
Deputy Principal

Ref: JSW/CO