



CARINE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Seeking Excellence in Education

Principal: Damian Shuttleworth B.Arts. B.Ed. M.Ed.

Good afternoon parents and caregivers

I write to you all to answer some questions that some in the community may have regarding the COVID-19 Corona virus. We are acting on the advice of the Department of Health with further direction from the Department of Education.

Communication regarding the virus is one of the most important factors in ensuring our school maintains an orderly, safe, inclusive and appropriate environment. We are all living in an environment that is becoming increasingly unfamiliar and to many quite alarming. With this in mind I offer you the following very important information which I would appreciate all parents read.

While the situation regarding the COVID-19 continues to evolve it is important that as a school community we apply a common sense, factual and practical approach to dealing with issues that arise from COVID-19.

The health and safety of our students and families is paramount, and we maintain that keeping the community informed of the following changes and information will help us navigate this time successfully.

Who cannot attend school?

A mandatory 14 day self-isolation requirement will be placed on all international arrivals into Australia.

Students or staff who have been tested for COVID-19 should follow the advice of the WA Department of Health and stay away from school whilst awaiting results.

Students or staff also need to self-quarantine if they have been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. They must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

If your child is not presenting with flu like symptoms, then they are not considered at risk to the school. If they are unwell, please follow your normal methods of managing your child when sick.

What is the school doing?

We have made the decision to cancel all assemblies and mass gatherings.

We are cancelling or postponing all excursions and incursions.

The Year 9 Camp has been postponed until further notice and the School Production has been postponed until further notice.

International travel such as Antipodeans and the New Zealand Ski Trip has also been cancelled. I am currently seeking advice regarding cancellation implications for parents regarding these trips.

Our parent teacher evenings will be adjusted to be supportive of the Department of Health's social distancing recommendations. I will send more information to parents and caregivers regarding this in the coming days.

We will be sending out a survey to families to gauge our students' ability to connect online from home in case a closure was to occur (more information below).

We are informing students at school of proper hand hygiene, and social distances measures.

I understand that the cancellation or postponement of excursions, incursions, school camps, and the school production is quite upsetting, and I acknowledge that and feel for all of you who are disappointed. It is important however, that we act on the advice of the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

How to minimise the spread of COVID-19?

Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol based hand gel.

Refraining from touching mouth and nose.

If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow.

Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene

Avoiding close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).

Will the school close?

If a WA school has to close due to a confirmed case, it will be on advice from the WA Health Department's Chief Health Officer. The Chief Health Officer will, if there has been a positive COVID-19 test result in our school, close our school temporarily while assessment and tracing of exposure is conducted. A thorough school clean will then be carried out to make the school safe for the return of students and staff.

In this situation the principal will receive direct advice and support regarding the closure process and communication materials from the Department of Education's Coronavirus support team.

Upon the school being notified, all families will be immediately contacted and provided with the relevant information. This contact may be during the school day, or before or after school. It is therefore important that we have up-to-date contact details for your children, please notify the front office if these have changed.

Parents/caregivers will also be advised of the extent to which class work can be completed at home during this temporary closure and provided with the details of how this will work.

As further updates regarding this matter come through, parents and families will be updated.

Thank you for your time and take care.

Any further queries regarding this email please contact James Lorimer, Associate Principal School Communication Operations and Engagement on 9243 9100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Shuttleworth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Damian Shuttleworth
Principal

17 March 2020