



Dear Parents,

A number of parents have been seeking further information in regards to the Corona Virus and the school.

The school is guided and directed by the Department of Education (DET) and the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) on its actions in regards to the operation of the school during this time.

Below is information from the latest update we have received from DET.

*What to do;*

- *if a staff member or student at your school is in one of the categories below, your school must contact DHHS :*

*Categories for contacting DHHS:*

- *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.*

*'Close contact' is defined by DHHS as someone who has had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case, or shared a closed space with someone for more than two hours with a confirmed case.*

*Unless you have a student or staff member in one of the two above categories, the school does not need to take further action.*

#### *School closures*

*Based on advice from DHHS, when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 among a student or staff member, Victoria's Chief Health Officer will recommend an affected school's closure for 24 hours. If this occurs, DHHS will work with DET and staff and students will be advised to stay home and self-isolate for 24 hours. This closure will support school and health officials to work through a contact and containment strategy, including decisions about extending the closure period.*

*Schools will be advised by DET which will also provide template letters and communication materials to help you communicate advice and instructions to your students, staff and the communities in the event of a school closure.*

At this stage, we have had no reports of students or staff with confirmed or non-confirmed possible cases of the virus. If this changes, parents will be notified via Compass as guided by the Department.

As was stated in the recent newsletter, we have increased our attention and vigilance on good hygiene practices at the school and we strongly encourage parents and carers not to send unwell children to school. We request parents and carers to 'heed on the side of caution' if their child is not feeling well and not send a child to school until they are feeling better and well.

Parents will continue to be informed as further updates become available.

Regards

David Moss

