

16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

### **Covid-19 update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to be guided by the Deputy Secretary of Schools and Regional Services following their advice from Department of Health. The following statement has been provided for us to share with our community.

#### **Closures**

***On 13 March, the Prime Minister announced a number of measures that all Premiers agreed to, on the basis of the advice from Australia's Chief Medical Officer and Chief Health Officers of the states and territories.***

***All non-essential planned gatherings of more than 500 people should be cancelled from 16 March.***

***These measures do not include the closure of early childhood services, schools or higher education institutions.***

***Closures will be made on the recommendation of Victoria's Chief Health Officer. Once this occurs, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will inform the Department of Education and Training, and we will then work with the school, service or institution to implement the closure.***

If a student at our school is in one of the categories below, our school will contact DHHS for specific advice on what to do next. It is vital that you contact us if your child or a family member is in either of these categories:

- 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 in one of the two above categories, you do not need to take further action. However, if your child is ill, as a further precaution, you must keep them at home until they are well. Please call the school to advise us of their absence as usual. Continuing good hygiene practices are the most effective means of minimizing the spread of COVID-19, and we continue to encourage these practices.

At this stage all community or whole schools events have been either postponed or cancelled. This include weekly assemblies, our annual Easter Hat parade and raffle, and all school sporting events for this term. We will advise you further of events at the beginning of next term as this comes to hand. As another precaution we are splitting the recess and lunchtime areas into two to minimize the number of students possibly congregated together commencing tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,  
Julie Gleeson  
Principal.