

16 March 2020

Dear members of the St Dominic's Priory College community,

RE: COVID-19 Update

I recognise that you have been inundated with communication and news regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. I am conscious that as a community we must act with careful consideration. I assure you that the College Leadership Team along with the College Board are doing everything we can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all staff, students, families and visitors. As such the purpose of this communication is to provide information regarding our processes and practices during this unprecedented time across the world. I ask you to take the time to read this thoroughly.

We are aware that a challenge in this situation, can be in the role and speed of social media platforms releasing information, before it has been confirmed or the College informed. There has been some social commentary on whether schools should close during this time. At present St Dominic's Priory College will remain open. It is important to note, that in the first instance of a confirmed case of Covid-19, the College will act upon the advice and direction of SA Health officials.

In order to be prepared for such an event I outline the following:

Our understanding of SA Health's role in managing a confirmed case of COVID-19 is as follows:

- SA Health notify the College of a confirmed case.
- SA Health assess the impact of any potential spread. They are further responsible for identifying and notifying any close contacts and advise on treatment and/or self-isolation.
- Our site will be subjected to a thorough clean and only reopened on the advice of health experts.

If we are advised by SA Health of a confirmed case of COVID-19, then the College will be required to close. Students will need to be collected immediately from school.

Our process of communication will be as follows:

1. School closure email and SMS sent to school authorities, parents and guardians.
2. Students will return to their home classes for pack-up.
3. Normal end of day procedures take place with extra staff placed on yard duty.
4. The school should close as quickly as possible and we ask that all students are picked up as promptly as possible.
5. After school care at Blackfriars Priory School will not be option.

During school closure it is imperative that students remain at home. The term 'social distancing' is also becoming a commonly used phrase. Social distancing includes keeping a fair distance away from each other (1.5m) and refraining from person to person contact.

To support your daughter in this process please have a conversation with her about pick-up plans should the school need to close before normal finish time. The girls will be addressed today so that they are informed about the process we will follow around school closure. The information will be tailored to suit the age group of students.



St. Dominic's

P r i o r y

College Inc

Established 1884

ABN 25 085 110 379

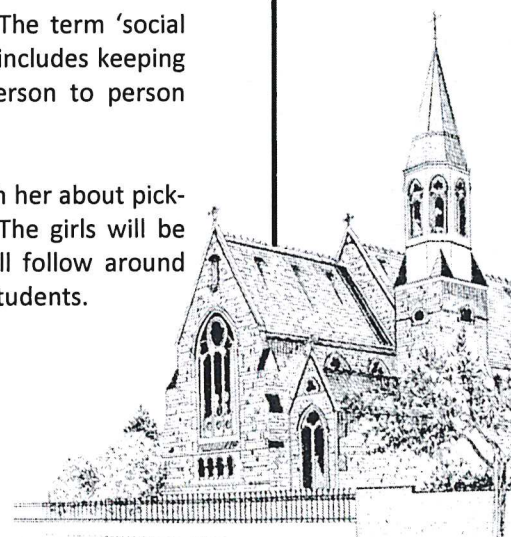
139 Molesworth Street,

North Adelaide 5006

PHONE: 8267-3818

(in school hours)

FACSIMILE: 8267-4877



Please be reminded that confidentiality and privacy is paramount. As you would understand, the identification of individual(s) impacted by the virus will not be disclosed.

In addition to this information, please be advised in line with the Australian Government's advice regarding large gatherings, the leadership of the College have decided that all off site activities will be suspended until further notice. Although not an exhaustive list, this includes:

- Excursions and Incursions
- Camps and Retreats
- Sports Day
- Sporting Activities and Competitions.

Large gatherings, such as assemblies, will also not take place on site. We recognise that this may be an inconvenience and is disappointing for your daughter/s, as it is for us as a whole school community. These decisions have been made in order to place both student and staff health and wellbeing as a matter of priority. Furthermore, it is in line with commentary from credible health and government authorities.

Teaching staff are well prepared and there is much learning to take place across all year levels. In the event of school closure, we have received notification and updates from the SACE Board and the school is able to manage all aspects of the learning and assessments in these years. Senior school students will be able to access their learning via their laptop and our operating system Citrix. Primary teachers will be in contact with a daily plan through email/Seesaw.

I am mindful of the impact of social media and the news reports over the weekend on the wellbeing of our girls. You may find that your daughter/s may become concerned and ask questions. Staying positively connected and engaged with your daughter/s during difficult times is one of the best ways to support them. Encourage her to talk to you if she becomes worried, as this is an important step in ensuring that young people seek help.

This is a time of great unknown and I thank you for your support. Our positive actions at an individual level have an impact on the wider Australian community. As global citizens, we have a responsibility to take care of ourselves and of each other. Let us be mindful that we belong to a community and we are called to act with justice, compassion and love. St Dominic reminds us that 'we must sow the seed, not hoard it' – a call to care for each other.

If you would like more information about COVID-19 you can contact:

- The National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.
- The Australian Government also publishes a daily alert with latest medical advice and official reports, which can be accessed at;
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Kindest regards,


Ms Helen Steele
College Principal



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