



'Quality Christian Education in a Caring Environment'

COVID-19 Quick Reference & Advice

Update: 19 March 2020

With the support of Independent Schools Queensland, Lutheran Education Queensland and information from state and commonwealth government health and education authorities we are monitoring the COVID-19 situation, identifying potential impacts, initiating responses and planning for various scenarios. The health and wellbeing of our school community is always our highest priority.

We will be using this page to communicate important information and updates regarding COVID-19. This page, accessible through '[Quick Links](#)' section of our website will be reviewed daily, and should be the main point of reference for parents for information regarding COVID-19 and our college. We suggest parents check for updates on a regular basis, however we will continue to email parents when there are significant changes or updates.

Will Good Shepherd need to close?

There appear to be two main scenarios involving the closure of school(s) for a period of time. In both scenarios the closure will be directed by the relevant authority. School closure is not a school based decision.

Short-term closure (several days)

If a case is identified in our school, Queensland Health will work closely with us in managing our response and our actions will be taken with community health at the centre of our decision making.

If there is a confirmed case at our school, it is likely our school will need to close for a period to allow Queensland Health to assess the situation and to perform contact tracing as required to identify people and students who may have come in contact with the COVID-19 case. You may have already seen this happening in other states where confirmed cases have been identified.

Our school will conduct any specialised cleaning of our facilities as required to ensure our school is safe for students and staff to return when clearance is given. A closure is likely to include any on-site services such as outside school hours care (OSHC) and other facility hirers.

General extended closure of schools (weeks)

We are putting significant time and resources into planning for closure for a period of weeks. Although specific information has not been provided at this stage, we assume students would not be permitted on campus. The ability for staff to be onsite, with or without restriction, during an extended closure is unknown.

As a community, during this preparation phase, it may be timely for families to consider their own family and care arrangements should school closure be necessary for a period.

Continuity of Learning

Continuity of learning is extremely important to us. During any period of closure, access to learning materials and teacher support will be facilitated remotely using a combination of 'Pulse'

(Year 6-12), direct emails to students and parents and other platforms (e.g. Junior Years class pages). The extent to which 'Pulse' is used currently varies from year level to year level and subject to subject. This is a current area of detailed planning and preparation. Further information will be provided in the event of our school being closed. The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) also has procedures in place to support senior secondary students.

Access to Resources

Given that a closure may be necessary with little to no notice, students in Year 6-12 are encouraged to take home their laptop, charger, key texts and books each day. Under the guidance of classroom teachers, P-5 students may be asked to take some materials home so that they can be accessed during a period of school closure.

Personal Hygiene

Personal hygiene is an essential proactive measure:

- Please reinforce with your children how to wash their hands properly using soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser. The College bathrooms are equipped with soap dispensers to support hand washing. We have provided access to hand sanitiser for all staff and students.
- All students are to have their own water bottles. The college has a number of chilled and filtered water bottle filling stations. Students are not to share their water bottle with another student.



What do I do if my child is unwell?

If your child develops flu-like symptoms, please:

- keep your child at home;
- avoid close contact with others such as touching, kissing or hugging, or any mass gatherings, especially those involving other children;

- contact a doctor or contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) immediately;
- seek medical advice if your child has other underlying medical conditions; and
- call ahead to the medical centre or doctor's surgery, advising of your child's symptoms and the closure of the school.
- cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of their elbow; and
- dispose of tissues in the bin immediately.

Symptoms of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The following table may be helpful but should not take the place of specific medical advice or requirements relating to self-isolation.

COVID19: Identifying the symptoms			
Symptoms	Covid-19 Symptoms range from mild to severe	Cold Gradual onset of symptoms	Flu Abrupt onset of symptoms
 Fever	Common	Rare	Common
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Cough	Common (usually dry)	Mild	Common (usually dry)
 Sneezing	No	Common	No
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Diarrhoea	Rare	No	Sometimes for children
 Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Source: WHO, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Overseas Travel & Restrictions

Advice regarding overseas travel related restrictions including self-isolation requirements can be accessed through the [Smart Traveller](#) website and itA s specific '[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – information for Australian travellers](#)' page

Our assumption is that families with overseas travel plans are actively monitoring the situation. Any requirements communicated by the relevant authorities must be followed by families. This includes the 14 day mandatory self-isolation period for travellers returning to Australian after

midnight 15 March 2020. Please contact us if you have questions arising from this advice or requests for support in complying with restrictions including self-isolation.

Self-isolation

Self-isolation or self-quarantine is a strategy that is required in some circumstances. While the advice regarding self-isolation may change, in addition to travel related requirements, if your child has been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus in the last 14 days, they must also quarantine themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

More information about how to self-quarantine can be found at [Queensland Health](#).

Events & Activities

The College is reviewing all activities against advice as it relates to schools. The College has already made the decision to cease our largest gatherings including assemblies and Chapels. While these are important parts of our College, we will seek other ways to engage students in these dimensions of student life.

Given the number of college events and activities under review, the [College Calendar](#) should be the main point of reference. The status of all events is under constant review based on advice and an assessment of risk. Calendar entries that are listed without comment can be assumed to be proceeding (at this point in time). Some entries will be listed as 'cancelled' or 'postponed' and others will be identified as 'under review'. It will be important to check the status of important events regularly.

Camps & Excursions – Consistent with the direction to Education Queensland schools, all school camps, trips and excursions will be postponed or cancelled until further notice. This will also include the use of offsite locations for weekly sport and HPE classes. In recognition of the value of these experiences our preference is to postpone rather than cancel them. The status of specific activities can be checked using the college calendar. Our initial focus has been on events planned for the remainder of this term and the earlier part of next term.

Representative Sport – We have been notified of the decision to cancel the representative school sport program including district, regional, state, national, interstate and international competitions. This includes Queensland School Sport team participation in any national, interstate or international event.

Co-curricular

Although individual sporting competitions may or may not proceed, we have adopted the position of no participation in external sporting competitions until further notice.

College based, internal sporting and cultural activities will generally proceed. Specific activities will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The college will keep you informed of the status of activities through the calendar and/or direct communication.

Communication from Good Shepherd

We have communicated with you a number of times in recent weeks and will continue to do so to ensure we are all informed and prepared as a community. This page will be reviewed and updated regularly and is the most reliable and update information regarding COVID-19 and Good Shepherd.

Our communication channels include email and sms for significant and/or urgent notifications. Some communications will be shared via our College Facebook page, however this should not be relied on as the main or only source of information.

Parent Resources

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is an evolving international health concern. Around the world, people are being affected in many ways. Individuals of all ages from numerous nationalities are being diagnosed with the virus—it doesn't discriminate. Although children are considered at lower risk of infection, they are not immune to the anxiety that may result from hearing the multitude of news reports regularly seen or heard in the media.

This pandemic is a cause for great concern to parents, but it is also very worrying to young people. Many are wondering how best to discuss this pandemic in a way that will be reassuring to kids without making them feel more worried than what they may be already. Parents should not avoid such a discussion with their kids. Not talking about something can often make them worry more.

Although most children will have already heard about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), it is important for parents and caregivers to take this opportunity to convey the facts about it and set the emotional tone. This may help kids feel more informed and reassured. Involving them and encouraging self-efficacy can also give them a sense of control and purpose.

Useful Links

- ['Coronavirus: a guide for Parents' – short video from schooltv.me](#)
- [Aust Government, Department of Health](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Qld Government, Department of Education](#)
- [Aus Government, Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)
- [Travel Updates: Federal Department of Home Affairs](#)

I thank you for your support in managing this situation and supporting student awareness of the additional need for strong health and hygiene practices.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Dyer
Principal