

Coronavirus Update - 13 August

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

We should be very proud of the efforts of the college staff who are ensuring the students continue to have educational experiences, albeit adapted slightly e.g. Year 11 Leadership Days, Junior Campus Athletics Carnival, Catholic Education Week, Ryan Day, Retreats/Excursions and Parent Teacher Interviews, just to name a few. These events would not be possible without the commitment of the staff who are doing whatever they can to bring them to fruition. There are still many events scheduled in the calendar for 2020, so we're using creative and flexible planning, as well as COVID safe measures, to ensure our students still have opportunities and experiences despite the many restrictions we need to adhere to at present.

Interstate Travel

As you'd be aware, some states are currently trying to manage significant outbreaks of COVID-19 caused by community transmission. In order to protect Queensland residents from the spread of COVID-19, the Chief Health Officer (CHO) has issued a Border Restrictions Direction which imposes border control measures on entry and re-entry into Queensland. These measures include strict quarantining obligations for those returning from declared COVID Hotspots, which now includes all of NSW, ACT and Victoria.

If you're intending to travel interstate, please be aware of this situation and of the possibility of changes to current restrictions at short notice. I strongly encourage you to have a discussion with a member of the Leadership Team regarding any future private interstate travel plans. This will assist us in managing our school community and the work, health and safety obligations to our staff and the broader school community.

Sickness

If students are unwell and have flu-like symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell, runny nose and fatigue), they must stay at home and seek advice about undergoing COVID-19 testing when symptoms persist/increase for more than 24 hours. Contact your doctor or contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) immediately and call ahead to the medical centre or doctor's surgery advising of your child's symptoms. The test is quite simple and has been refined to ensure there's very little discomfort with results being returned in 24 hours. **Students must remain at home until test results have been returned.** This is to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and to keep the school community safe, so please adhere to Government regulations.

What are the symptoms?



Testing Clinics

- A new COVID-19 drive through community assessment clinic opened last week at **1300 Smiles Stadium** in the eastern carpark. It operates seven days a week from 8:00am - 7:00pm.
- The COVID-19 drive through community assessment clinic at **Kirwan Health Campus** remains open. It operates seven days a week from 8:00am - 7:00pm.
- There is also a pop-up COVID-19 testing clinic at the **Strand Rockpool** which is open 9:00am - 2:00pm. This pop-up clinic will be assessed every week and may change locations.

Taking the simple test will help monitor and control community transmission if cases arise, noting there are no current cases in Townsville. Please visit the Townsville University Hospital Facebook Page for all the latest locations of testing centres and updated advice or feel free to call the Public Health Unit on 4433 6900.

Health Messages

Please continue to promote the following public health messages with your children:

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water, particularly before and after eating, and after using the toilet;
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap is unavailable;
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of their elbow;
- Dispose of used tissues in a bin immediately; and
- Apply social distancing as far as possible at school.

School Fees

Finally, if you're concerned about your school fees, please don't hesitate to contact the college on 4773 0100 to discuss ways we can assist.

Recently Pope Francis reminded us and firmly reassured us that God is with us during this global pandemic. Let's continue to pray for those directly affected by the virus: doctors and nurses, the sick, those who had died and their family members in mourning.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Duffy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Duffy
Acting Principal