

Coronavirus Update – 27 August

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Last week, several new COVID-19 cases were identified in south-east Queensland and are related to a case linked to a worker at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. As a result of these cases, the Queensland Government announced a range of measures, including changes to gathering restrictions. Generally, public gatherings are limited to 10 people in **restricted areas (as of 8:00m on Saturday 22 August 2020)**. In other parts of Queensland (other than restricted areas) gatherings are limited to 30 people.

Queensland Government authorities have advised that the new gathering restrictions announced last weekend will not impact the existing rules for school operations or school activities/events.

From a compliance perspective, schools have a general exemption for activities necessary for their normal operation. Further to this, we're advised to continue working to the current guidelines or plans that may apply to particular activities or to particular venues (e.g. sport, camps/outdoor recreation facilities, concerts/performances, etc.). We've also been advised that there's no current plan to update these guidelines at this stage.

Interstate Travel

If you're intending to travel interstate, please be aware of the current border restrictions in NSW, ACT and Victoria and the possibility of changes 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 and staff 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. Please consider, if you or a family member is struggling, consult a medical professional.

Testing Locations

- A new COVID-19 drive through community assessment clinic opened recently at **1300 Smiles Stadium** in the eastern carpark. It operates seven days a week from 8:00am - 4:30pm. Community members are encouraged to use this clinic as their first preference. No referral or appointment is necessary.
- The COVID-19 drive through community assessment clinic at **Kirwan Health Campus** (138 Thuringowa Drive) remains open. Please follow the signs. It operates Monday to Friday from 8:00am - 7:00pm. Please do not approach the Reception desk or enter the facility to be tested. No referral or appointment is necessary.
- There is also a pop-up COVID-19 testing clinic at the **Strand Rockpool** which is open 9:00am - 2:00pm Monday to Friday. 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. 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.

School Fees

Finally, if COVID-19 has impacted on your work situation and you're concerned about your school fees, please don't hesitate to contact the college on 4773 0100 to discuss ways we can assist.

During the global pandemic, Pope Francis reminds us that *we must not let hope abandon us. Optimism disappoints, but hope does not.* Let's continue to be hope-filled people during this difficult period.

Regards



Paula Duffy
Acting Principal