

Coronavirus Update – 30 July

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Townsville Catholic Education provided the following advice to schools recently: "While Term 3 has commenced with us being able to enjoy some normality, we need to be prepared that this could change and a return to some restrictions could be necessary." Hopefully our diocese will be free of further restrictions.

School Functions (e.g. Formals or similar events)

School functions such as formals and graduations are permitted to be held at businesses that have approved COVID Safe Industry Plans. We're working with the RSL Stadium regarding the Year 12 Graduation Dinner on Friday 20 November to ensure all measures are being taken to meet departmental and Chief Health Officer requirements.

Excursions and Camps

Excursions and camps are permitted to be held at locations or businesses that have approved COVID Safe Industry Plans. The Year 3 Billabong Sanctuary excursion and Years 6 and 12 Retreats are permitted to proceed.

Physical Distancing Within Schools

All adults need to observe physical distancing measures by not congregating in areas inside or around the school e.g. drop off and pick up points. The restriction of adults (including visitors and parents) accessing the school grounds must continue. If contact needs to be made with the College, it's highly recommended to do so via electronic means.

Symptoms

As people are participating in more activities, it's important that anyone with symptoms, no matter how mild, is tested and stays home. Symptoms include: fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of sense or smell, runny nose and fatigue.

Important Dates

Parent Teacher Interviews are being conducted on Tuesday 4 August 1:30-8:00pm (**students finish school at 12:40pm**) and Wednesday 19 August 3:30-8:00pm. For the safety of all participants, it is important that we adhere to COVID-safe procedures for oral reporting. Our procedures have been developed in alignment with Queensland Government regulations. We request that:

- wherever possible, only one parent attends the interviews. Secondary students are encouraged to accompany their parents; primary students are welcome at their parents' discretion.
- parents maintain social distance when waiting for interviews. This includes sitting in designated waiting areas and refraining from approaching teacher desks while other families are still seated.

- all participants use hand sanitiser (provided by the College) upon entry to the venues. Desks will be sanitised periodically throughout the night.
- all parents sign in on arrival, sign out on departure and obey all signage regarding entry and exit points.
- parents refrain from shaking hands, or otherwise making physical contact, with other participants.

The Spring Fair scheduled for 11 September has been cancelled. The Committee will use this time to reflect and plan a bigger and better Spring Fair in 2021!

Finally, please also consider that at this stage things are quite fluid nationally due to the evolving situations in New South Wales and Victoria. Please be prepared for advice and restrictions to change in Queensland at short notice throughout the remainder of the year, particularly regarding events and gatherings. *As Dr Jeannette Young (Chief Health Officer of Queensland) reminds us, "Queensland, we're in a great state, but now is not the time to let our guard down. So keep up your social distancing by staying two big steps away from others and avoid any unnecessary contact."*

Regards



Paula Duffy
Acting Principal