



# MARIST COLLEGE NORTH SHORE

270 MILLER STREET, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060 P: 9957 5000 E: [northshore@maristcollege.com](mailto:northshore@maristcollege.com)  
[www.maristcollege.com](http://www.maristcollege.com)

11 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the spread of the coronavirus increases, this letter is intended to outline for you the current precautionary measures being taken in relation to the management of risk posed by the COVID-19 coronavirus. Please note that at the time of writing, there are no reported cases of the coronavirus affecting any member of the Marist College North Shore community.

## Where to get information

The information regarding coronavirus is changing daily. The latest information from NSW health can be accessed at: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>.

Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) has set a page on the public website that will include current operational information. This can also be accessed by parents at:

<https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/coronavirus-updates>.

Specific information related to schools and early childhood services in NSW can be accessed at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-schools-and-early-childhood-centres>.

The advice on the NSW Health [Questions and Answers](#) is very helpful and I encourage you to have a look at their advice.

## Precautionary measures

**With the flu season soon to commence, I ask that students remain at home if they have cold or flu symptoms. If your son presents as being unwell with any of the following symptoms - sore throat, fever, cough, fatigue and shortness of breath we ask that you take him to a doctor and do not send him to school. This extra vigilance during the flu season should assist limited the spread of any viruses and reduce anxiety among the school community.**

Signs reminding students of hygiene tips have been prepared and are being placed around the school. Our bathrooms are well stocked with liquid soap. We will shortly be issuing every tutor group with a hand sanitizer. This will follow our Friday assembly in which we will encourage the boys to safe health practice in regard to personal hygiene.

Please see the World Health Organisations “Basic Protective Measures against the new coronavirus” (see [here](#))

## At risk students

Any student with a pre-existing heart, lung or kidney disease, type 1 or 2 diabetes, or with a condition or receiving treatment for a condition that results in a weakened immune system, are encouraged to take extra precautions to avoid infection.

## **Travel arrangements**

With the prevalence of the COVID-19 virus and the associated risk to the health of those travelling overseas, Sydney Catholic Schools has suspended all international travel until September 25, 2020. Therefore, our excursion to Jordan and Israel will not proceed as planned and the Immersions to Cambodia and India will also not proceed in July.

As we head toward the school holiday period, many staff/students may be finalising holiday and travel plans for that period. We have asked that all staff and students follow the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) advice in relation to travel. Further details on this can be found on the [smartraveller website](#). Should staff or students travel to an area where the DFAT advice is to not travel, they will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to Australia. This is currently changing as the impact of the virus continues to change and so staff and students are asked to monitor the advice as there is the risk that the advice changes during the time they are overseas. This is the advice given to us from Sydney Catholic Schools.

**If you are intending to travel overseas please email your travel details to [reception@maristcollege.com](mailto:reception@maristcollege.com) and we will keep a register of these travel arrangements.**

## **Decisions as to school closures**

Our Leadership Team is putting a plan in place should NSW Health close the school. If this were the case parents and guardians would be alerted by email and by text message. We will be working to ensure online teaching takes place. Our motto is that the school may be closed but learning continues. We are working with our staff to ensure that they have access to an online learning platform such as google classroom to enable the efficient delivery of lessons. Most are currently using such platforms.

Effective immediately, all students should be taking their personal devices home with them each day in the event that the school is deemed non-operational outside of school hours.

## **Absences**

Please inform the College about details of your son's absence via the school absence line on 9957 5000. If a family elects not to attend school, this will be deemed an unexplained absence. For students who may be asked to remain at home, work can be provided and this will be deemed an explained absence.

Thank you for your support during these uncertain times and I pray that all members of the Marist College North Shore community remain healthy.

Yours sincerely,



**Tony Duncan**  
**Principal**