



COVID-19 UPDATE

18th March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

The advice of the Chief Health Officer remains at present that our schools should stay open, except in the case of a confirmed case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). We currently have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school community.

It is business as normal here at Pentland Primary School.

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

The declaration by the Victorian Government of a State of Emergency means that the state now has the power to do the following, among other measures:

- enforce a mandatory self-quarantine period for returning travellers
- enforce a ban on non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people outside and 100 people for events held inside.

The mandatory self-quarantine period of 14 days for travellers returning from overseas does have implications for students and staff. In brief, students who travel overseas will not be able to attend school for 14 days when they return. Similarly, staff who travel overseas will not be able to attend school for 14 days and will be required to use personal leave to cover this absence.

Clearly, in line with Commonwealth Government revised travel advice, staff and students should reconsider any planned overseas travel during these coming school holidays.

Based on the latest advice regarding the size of non-essential gatherings being held inside now be limited to 100 people, we regret to advise that the special persons day for Foundation students due to be held next Friday (27th March) will be cancelled. The Easter Bonnet parade also due to be held on the 27th of March will at this stage be postponed until the first Friday of Term 2.

Schools remain open. School is open, however it is an individual family's choice if they send their child/ren to school. If you choose not to send your child/ren to school due to choosing to isolate, please ensure you notify our office so that we can ensure the absence is recorded with the right code.

Teachers and the leadership team are continuing to plan for all scenarios. If you choose to not send your child/ren to school whilst schools remain open we regret to advise that we can not provide individual work to these child/ren. Parents/Carers are able to encourage their children to continue

to read and write. There are a number of on-line programs available to assist parents with organising activities.

We have additional cleaning in place at Pentland Primary School. This will ensure that our toilets, taps, door handles and high use surfaces are cleaned/disinfected several times daily.

We have liquid soap installed in every toilet block and these are being checked daily.

At this stage our breakfast club program continues to operate. We are finding some of our food items hard to source. As a result, the range of our menu items may be reduced.

At this stage, our canteen remains open. As with our breakfast club our menu may need to be reduced as we experience increased difficulty in sourcing some food.

As of Friday 20th March, we will be cancelling all non-essential meetings with parents/carers, and ensuring that external visitors have limited access to our school. As a result we respectfully request families reduce their contact with the school office. Please consider if an issue can be managed with a phone call rather than a visit to the office. The office number is 5367 6080.

It is essential that your child remains at home if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Fever
- Difficulty breathing

If any of these symptoms present at school, then you will be notified and asked to collect your child as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Andrew Harrison

Principal