

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury

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Monday 16 March, 2020

Dear parents, staff and friends of SMMC,

St Mary MacKillop College Albury is continuing to monitor the developing issue of the Coronavirus pandemic and its potential impact on our school. Over the weekend government and advisory authorities have issued updates.

The Association for Independent Schools NSW, of which SMMC is a member, has advised the following, in alignment with the NSW Ministry of Health:

All major arts, sports and initiative activities and events will temporarily be ceased until further notice. This includes whole-school sporting events and inter-school events involving three or more schools.

Current advice from the NSW Government for parents and affected staff is:

- Any student or staff member who has been in, departed from, or transited through the following countries is excluded from child care services, school or work for 14 days from the date they left the country:
 - mainland China - since 1 February
 - Iran - since 1 March
 - the Republic of Korea (South Korea) - since 5 March.
 - Italy - since 11 March
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.
- Students and staff who have returned to Australia and have shown no symptoms during the 14-day home-isolation period are able to return to school or work.

SMMC is subsequently taking the following actions:

1. The SMMC Athletics Carnival, scheduled for Wednesday 18 March, is cancelled. Normal classes will be running in lieu of the carnival.
2. All excursions are cancelled or indefinitely postponed.
3. Staff who have been overseas, or come into direct contact with someone who has been overseas, must contact me before returning to school and adhere to NSW Health guidelines listed above.
4. Where possible, and until further notice, teachers are asked to wipe the door handles of their classroom at the beginning and end of every lesson with anti-bacterial wipes.
5. Students who are unwell with respiratory symptoms should be kept home and remain at home until symptoms resolve.
6. Staff members who are unwell with respiratory symptoms should likewise self-isolate until symptoms resolve.
7. Staff and students are asked to use hand sanitizer, where possible, after visiting the bathroom. Pump bottles are placed at various locations throughout the school to assist.
8. Staff will be reminding students at regular intervals about hand washing, keeping hands to themselves, and covering their mouth when coughing and sneezing using a tissues or a bended elbow.
9. Posters will be placed in classrooms to remind students about hygiene.

The visit of staff and seminarians from Vianney College will go ahead tomorrow, as planned. I have been reassured by seminary staff member, Fr Sean Byrnes, that no member of the seminary community, visiting SMMC or not, has travelled or come into contact with someone who has.

NSW Health does not recommend school closure as a pre-emptive measure. However, individual schools will make decisions based on their particular needs. A school needs healthy students and teachers in order to function. SMMC will be monitoring the situation closely each day. For now, we are open for business as usual, notwithstanding the measures listed above.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'I' and 'S'.

Ian Smith

Principal