

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

RE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding during this challenging time. The College is committed to doing all that it can to support the health and well-being of the different members of our community. The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed about the College's processes and how we will respond to and manage a report of COVID-19 at, or connected with, our school.

We are continuing to monitor and prepare for any foreseeable impact of COVID-19. Our actions are consistent with guidelines issued by the Commonwealth Department of Health and SA Health.

Procedures in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 and school closure

Currently there are no suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 at, or linked to, the College.

Given the highly infectious nature of the virus, there is the potential that the College will be closed for a short or longer period in the future. Should closure be required at the direction of SA Health, we are providing you with the following information to enable you to consider the implications for your family.

SA Health has told us that a school cannot provide information to its community until any possible case is confirmed and the school is advised by SA Health. It is likely that SA Health will make an announcement at, or very close to, the same time that it informs the School. I would prefer that we could provide information earlier, but we cannot.

It is our understanding that SA Health's role in managing a confirmed case of COVID-19 is:

- SA Health notifies the school of a confirmed case.
- SA Health assesses the impact of any potential spread, including the school setting.
- SA Health identifies and notifies any close contacts and advises them on treatment and/or self-isolation.
- Upon receiving SA Health confirmation of a COVID-19 case, the School is required to close.
- The School is cleaned thoroughly and only re-opens on expert advice.

Should the school be required to close:

- A College closure communication will be sent by email and, where possible, SMS to parents/caregivers and staff.
- Should a school closure be called during the school day, students will be advised to collect their bags and return to their Class/Home Group, where their teacher will ensure that they are dismissed safely. Students will be supervised as would normally occur at the end of a school day, until they have been collected. Separate arrangements will be made for students who normally travel on the Port MacDonnell, Millicent, Penola, Naracoorte and Mil Lel buses.
- The School should close as soon as possible. We ask that students be picked up promptly.

Given that closure could occur at any time during the day, we encourage you to discuss this possibility with your children:

- Their travel arrangements, if we need to close the school before normal finish time.
- The importance to travel directly home or to a relative's house, reduce interaction with other people and not gather in public places such as shops and food outlets.
- Self-isolation will have an impact on school attendance and other activities such as sport training and part-time work.
- Remaining calm.

Schools with confirmed cases typically close for two or three days. If the closure is for a week or more, the College will activate its remote education plan for students. Information about this will be emailed to parents when appropriate.

Please be aware that information shared on public social media and news sites, together with personal social media, travels quickly and can get out of control. The accuracy or inaccuracy and timing of information can add stress. You will receive communication from the College as soon as possible and consistent with the required protocols of SA Health.

Confidentiality and privacy are paramount. As you would understand, the identity of individual(s) cannot be disclosed by the College, and we would discourage any members of the school community from speculating on identities, especially in public forums.

Finally, thank you for your support of the School. We remain committed to the health and well-being of all members of our community. If you have any questions, please contact the College Front or Ark Office.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Connah
Principal