



## COVID-19 Communication 02

11 March 2020

For reliable government updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) go to  
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Dear Families,

The Leadership Team at Plenty Valley Christian College has been monitoring the COVID-19 virus and its potential effect it may have on schools. As part of our commitment to partnering with you in the nurture of your children, I write to share our current planning. Please note, the situation is extremely dynamic and changing rapidly. As such, we are constantly reviewing our plans and I will endeavour to keep you up to date.

As a community, we believe that God expects us to act in the best interests of one another and to take particular care of our most vulnerable members. We remember that, while this virus outbreak has exposed the fragility of our humanness and potentially the fragility of the world economy, our God is not fragile, and he continues to offer us hope in adversity.

PVCC leaders use information from the Australian Government's Department of Health website (available [here](#)), the Victorian Government's Health and Human Services website (available [here](#)) as well as information from other reliable sources. This has enabled us to develop a 3-phase response plan to the COVID-19 situation. We are currently in Phase 1 which includes:

### **Voluntary self-isolation of individuals at risk**

Current advice is that any student returning from mainland China from 1 February, Iran from 1 March or South Korea from 5 March, *must* be isolated at home and should not attend school until 14 days after they were last at those destinations. Self-isolation also applies to any student who has had *close contact* with a possibly infected person or who has returned from the above countries within those timeframes. Please let the College know if you or any of your family are in self-isolation. *Close contact is defined as 15 min face-to-face (1-2m apart) or more than 2 hours in the same room*

### **Parents of any symptomatic students presenting at school will be asked to collect their child immediately and isolate them until they are no longer symptomatic or are tested and confirmed as not infected.**

Symptoms of the COVID-19 virus can range from mild illness to pneumonia. People with the virus may experience fever, flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue, and/or shortness of breath. Should a student present at school with a number of these symptoms, staff will keep the student in a safe and comfortable isolated location until their parents come to collect them.

### **Symptomatic staff members will not attend school**

Staff presenting with the same symptoms will not attend the school until they are no longer symptomatic or are tested and confirmed as not infected.

### **Everyone should take care of hand hygiene**

All toilet facilities at the College have water and soap, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds. There will also be increased access to hand sanitiser for students and staff. Please encourage and model this at home.

### **Student or staff with suppressed immune systems or underlying conditions should consult their medical advisors for advice.**

### **Timeline and severity**

The Victorian government, based on modelling of other country's experience, is not expecting to move to a more significant stage of public restriction including widespread school closures for another 8 to 12 weeks, so we have time to prepare and manage our hygiene. It is also worth reminding ourselves that 80% of infections so far, have been mild (think of a bad cold), do not require medical intervention and can easily be managed at home.

Thank you in anticipation for your supportive partnership, expressed in cooperation as we navigate this challenge. In the event of the need for urgent communication, the school will communicate by email, the College app, text message and post a notice on the website.

Your children may be more anxious than they are letting on and so below are a couple of websites you might find helpful when talking to your children:

[https://phillywaldorf.com/talking-to-children-about-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR0eBK2jmMrFJQGimZ2tgTAHzEPH2fy60vZ240q\\_GwL4ayzOPrz-cLe91Gk](https://phillywaldorf.com/talking-to-children-about-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR0eBK2jmMrFJQGimZ2tgTAHzEPH2fy60vZ240q_GwL4ayzOPrz-cLe91Gk)

<https://parenting.nytimes.com/childrens-health/coronavirus-kids-talk>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with your child's Head of School or Deputy Principal, Principal or College Nurse.



John Metcalfe  
Principal