



COVID-19 Communication 04

15 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,

This is an uncertain and frustrating time as day to day conditions and recommendations change. Please be confident that the College is placing the wellbeing of our students, staff and their families as our highest priority.

Although we have a phased plan in place, we are not sure what the next step will look like exactly, or of its timing. We do know that our country's leaders have a plan to slow and treat the virus infection in a manageable way. We also know that Australia has one of the best medical infrastructures in the world and if we all make good decisions, we will weather this storm. Unlike the conditions and responses around the virus, our God is constant, loving and will not leave us to flounder.

When I wrote to you on 11 March 2020, I informed you that we had developed a 3-phase response plan. I am now enacting Phase 2 of that plan. This means:

Compulsory self-isolation of individuals at risk

Any students or staff members who have returned from overseas in the last 2 weeks should not attend school and should self-isolate until 2 weeks after their return or until they have a medical certificate indicating they are not infectious. Please inform the College (office@pvcc.vic.edu.au) if your family is affected and you have not already done so.

Any students or staff members who have had close contact with a person who has returned from overseas in the last 2 weeks should not attend school and should self-isolate until 2 weeks after their close contact or until they or the returning person/s have a medical certificate indicating they are not infectious. Please inform the College (office@pvcc.vic.edu.au) if your family is affected and you have not already done so.

Symptomatic Students or Staff *must not* attend the College

If a student or staff member display symptoms they must not attend school until they have been tested and declared uninfected or the symptoms abate. Please inform the College of absences in the usual way. Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Breathing difficulties such as breathlessness
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fatigue or tiredness.

Parents of any student that begins to present symptoms 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.

Hand hygiene will become routine for classes and **social distancing techniques** strongly encouraged

Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of classrooms and work areas

Cancellation of:

- Gatherings over 300
- excursions and camps,
- the use of public transport,
- the use of enclosed public venues
- activities involving outside people attending the college

Parents are asked not to attend the College unless it is a necessary visit. When dropping or collecting students do not enter the College except for the carpark and office reception area (when necessary). Please do not walk through the areas where students gather or play.

Students or staff with suppressed immune systems or underlying conditions should consult their medical consultants for individualised advice.

Be assured the College leadership will continue to monitor and review the situation and act on advice given by the relevant Health Departments and keep you informed of any developments.

Yours in Christ's Service



John Metcalfe
Principal