

27 January 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Novel Coronavirus

As I am sure you are aware and have been following the news closely regarding the situation that is rapidly evolving internationally with the emergence of the Novel Coronavirus outbreak, originating from Wuhun China. Information is being updated regularly regarding this a new virus and its specific nature is currently unclear, however, it appears that you can have the virus at an early stage and not be showing any symptoms. This incubation period is currently considered to be up to 14 days.

Our children will be returning to school on Thursday this week and the health of students and staff is a priority for all.

Sancta Maria Catholic Primary School is putting in place the following measures to lessen the risk to our staff and students:

- Anyone who is **unwell should not be at school**. If you have a particular concern about a child or adult contact the Healthline at 0800 611 116 or your GP for medical advice. Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24 hours in 150 languages.
- If a student still attends schools **showing symptoms of an infectious disease** the Principal will exclude the child and the parents will be contacted to collect the child immediately. The student has to stay away for the infectious period of the disease (Section19 Education Act)
- Any staff member with an infectious disease or is suspected of having an infectious disease, will be requested not to attend school.
- Any staff member or student who may be at high risk of exposure because they have **recently been to China** or have **been in close contact** with someone confirmed with the virus, are asked to please **stay at home for 14 days** and on return to school are showing no symptoms of an infectious disease.

We will continue to be guided by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health as they keep us updated and informed. Families are reminded about the importance of general Hygiene, especially washing hands with soap for 20 seconds.

Further information can be found on the Ministry of Health website: [Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) guidance – Ministry of Health](#)

Yours sincerely
Gina Benade
Principal