



Emmanuel Christian Community School

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13 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

With the current heightened activity around COVID-19 Emmanuel Christian Community School is implementing measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to students, staff and visitors.

The measures are in line with the Pandemic guidelines from the Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA) in conjunction with the WA Departments of Health and Education.

While the Department of Health advises that the risk of transmission in Western Australia remains low; they are monitoring the situation and we are acting on their advice to take any necessary precautions for students and staff.

The current focus is on being prepared, and implementing precautions that can be put in place to slow the transmission of COVID-19. As it has been publicised, Western Australians should remain alert, but not be alarmed.

It is important that as a school community we apply a common sense, factual and practical approach to COVID-19. We will only provide information that we know to be factual and is provided through the Department of Health and AISWA.

While the health risk to people within our School remains low for those that are without underlying health issues, Emmanuel Christian Community School will continue to be proactive and take every precaution to care for all members of our community.

Our cleaning regime is always to the highest standard. However, recently we have added more to our regular cleaning routine. High contact points such as basins, benches, dispensers, hand dryers, door handles, and push buttons are sanitised daily. All our toilets are checked regularly to ensure a steady supply of soap – with good hand hygiene being the simplest yet most effective safety measure we can all undertake, with hand sanitiser being in use as well.

COVID-19 is generating a lot of media attention; some based on fact and some based on misplaced opinion. I have no doubt there has been particular interest in our community regarding the possibility of school closures, and I note that it gained further publicity on televised news tonight. We are confident that at this stage of the crisis we are well placed and prepared should we have a student or staff member test positive to this virus. Likewise, if we did face the situation of a school closure we will have a strategy in place to assist with continuity of our programmes.

What would happen if the Health Department needed to close the School?

Even if the School needed to close, teaching and learning would continue. We will have provisions and technology in place that will allow our students to continue learning. We have plans to keep educating our students as much as practicable in essential Curriculum.

We are conscious of the different learning requirements for a student in the Early Years and Junior Primary to those in Year 11 and 12 and the School Leadership have planned various approaches to support student learning at home. For many, the delivery of content through SEQTA will be the first priority. This will generally support students from Year 5 to Year 12. Teaching staff will have their teaching strategies/plans for this possibility. The planning included use of online software, use of SEQTA, assessment adjustments, and activities in the form of an 'individualised Essential Curriculum Pack' to provide parents for children in the Early Years and Junior Primary. There may also be an opportunity to collaborate online through Microsoft Teams and/or OneDrive in some year levels. Certainly Teachers will still be able to regularly send updates and communicate by email and direct message on SEQTA.

For Year 12 students, we will work hard to ensure that learning time is not lost, and that assessments and examinations are rescheduled as necessary. Staff will endeavour to think of all possibilities to minimise disruption to the academic programme both during closure and on students return to school.

All students can continue to read, review and study at home. They can also engage in online revision programmes and instrument practice. We would also encourage that they keep up their physical activity while at home. Normalisation is the most important part of any crisis management strategy.

It is possible that the School will remain open. However, it may be worth families with both parents working to discuss contingencies with your employers in the event that your child is confined at home for an extended time.

We should also be aware that the voracity of the news cycle can heighten a sense of emergency in our children that they do not need to feel. When we speak to our children, we should stress that taking cautious measures should not be associated with a sense of panic.

The most important thing is to maintain good hygiene. Children are being asked to wash their hands frequently, not to touch their faces, and to cough into their elbows or into a tissue (before disposing of it). Shaking hands and other physical contact is being discouraged. Our major initiative at school focuses all staff and students on good hand hygiene and we recommend you do the same at home.

If your child shows any sudden cold or flu symptoms, please keep him at home, notify the school and contact your GP for advice. If you suspect any of your family members have COVID-19 or have tested positive with COVID-19 do not send your child to school and follow the Department of Health guidelines regarding quarantine procedures.

How are we monitoring potential cases coming into the school?

If a student comes to school with a cold, we will contact parents and send him/her home. If we suspect a student has COVID-19, based on their symptoms and history, we will isolate him and follow health guidelines. In essence, all families should consider carefully their need to travel overseas at this time.

We already have plans to travel overseas in the April holidays – can we still go?

Emmanuel Christian Community School strongly advises that families reconsider their travel plans for the upcoming school holidays. The Australian Government has already put in place travel bans to some countries and this is being updated daily. Travel information and warnings can be found on

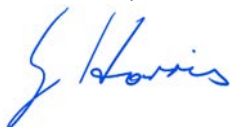
smartraveller.com.au As noted in previous correspondence, you must quarantine yourselves at home for 14 days before returning to school.

What should I do if my child is sick?

Please keep your child home from school if they are unwell. If they have a fever, runny nose, sore throat and/or cough they must stay home and follow medical advice. If they present to school with these symptoms, we will send them home.

During times like these being part of a calm, supportive and prayerful community is what we all need. Let us hope that through careful planning, logical action, and continued prayer for our community, we can all work and support each other at this time. Please pray for the protection of our community, for wisdom, and for God's peace as we put our trust in our Heavenly Saviour.

God bless,



Gary Harris
Principal