



# Emmanuel Christian Community School

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Dear Parents and Guardians

In light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak we are taking socially responsible precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the virus in our School Community. We appreciate your support as we try our best to care for our community. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

As you are aware, this situation is changing constantly, so please read all school correspondence thoroughly.

The Prime Minister announced on Sunday afternoon, following a meeting with all Premiers and Chief Ministers, that all those arriving from overseas from midnight on 15 March 2020 will be required to self-isolate for two weeks.

Updated information on travel restrictions and isolation requirements are available on the Australian Government's website here - <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

We remain committed to the health and safety of all members of Emmanuel Christian Community School. The National Cabinet Meeting did not recommend school closures at this time.

Health Department advice is that organised, non-essential gatherings should be limited to 500 people and initiate increased hygiene and other social distancing measures.

The Leadership Team have taken the view that this is appropriate and, in this light, in consultation with the many staff and organisations involved, have cancelled the following events effective immediately:

- Year 7 Camp
- Student Council Camp
- School Assemblies
- High School Parent Night
- Primary Swimming Carnival and other Primary School events

Below are some of the things we are doing to ensure everyone who visits our Campus is safe, as well as playing our part to prevent the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19.

### **Our precautionary measures include:**

- Increased cleaning and sanitisation across the school including additional disinfecting of surfaces and equipment.
- Preparing our teams to respond quickly to any emerging situation should it occur, to best ensure the health and safety of everyone involved.
- Asking any member of the College community who displays flu like symptoms to refrain from coming to the College.
- Asking any member of the College community who has been overseas to isolate for 14 days from the day they arrived in Australia. Guidelines for self-isolation can be found at <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolation-faqs>
- Asking any member of the College community who has had contact with somebody with COVID-19 to self-isolate. A contact includes spending more than 15 minutes face-to-face or sharing a closed space for more than two hours, including contact with the person 24 hours prior to them becoming ill.

### **How you can help:**

- Please keep your child at home if they are unwell.
- If visiting the school, please use the hand sanitisers provided at all reception areas upon entry and leaving the school. If you prefer, feel free to wash hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not share water bottles, food, stationery or other items that require personal contact.
- We suggest that all community members practice social distancing, including not shaking hands until the risk subsides.
- Please have a conversation with your child about good hygiene practices.
- Avoid contact with anyone who has symptoms of fever, a cough, sore throat, fatigue or shortness of breath.
- Stay home if unwell.
- Reconsider any non-essential travel.

Should your child be experiencing anxiety related to the Coronavirus epidemic, we invite you to contact the pastoral care team for additional support.


We will continue to keep you updated if there are any significant changes or new developments, and we encourage all parents and guardians to remain personally informed themselves of the latest Government advice. We remain in a preparation phase and should we be required to close the school for any period, that the school is well placed to switch to an online mode through SEQTA. Students may be involved in trials of this in the coming days. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. School closure will only be initiated at the direction of the Health Department and the Department of Education and we will remain in full operation until told otherwise.

Thank you for all the encouragement you have given us to date. We are a community working together and we hold our students and families close to our hearts.

As we face uncertainty in the coming days may we remember this verse:

***This I declare about the Lord:  
He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;  
he is my God, and I trust him.  
Psalm 91:2***

God bless you and your family

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gary Harris  
Principal