



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) COVID-19

Date updated: Version 1 – 19 March 2020

The COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly and we will continue to update you as required.

Please refer to our School Website where a dedicated page has been created with links to important letters and information from our Principal, Mr Nick Jones and the CEO of the Anglican Schools Commission, Rev Peter Laurence OAM.

Updates will be shared with parents and guardians by email and the [School App](#).

Questions

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Disclaimer: This document has been prepared based on information from Government agencies. Our best effort has been made to ensure the information is correct at time of publication. This document will be updated regularly as required.

1. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

People with COVID-19 may experience:

- Fever
- Flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue
- Shortness of breath

2. How is COVID-19 spread?

According to the Department of Health, the virus can spread from person to person through:

- Close contact with an infectious person (including in the 24 hours before they started showing symptoms)
- Contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze
- Touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person, and then touching your mouth or face

3. How can I protect myself and others against COVID-19?

You can protect yourself and others by practicing good hygiene and social distancing. For example:

- Covering your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue
- Disposing of tissues properly
- Washing your hands often with soap and water, including before and after eating and after going to the toilet
- Using alcohol-based hand sanitisers
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and frequently used objects such as mobiles, keys and wallets
- Staying at home when you are unwell
- Avoiding large public gatherings if they're not essential
- Keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between you and other people whenever possible
- Minimising physical contact, especially with people at higher risk such as older people and people with existing health conditions.

For more information see the World Health Organization's [Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus](#) and the Australian Government's [Information on social distancing](#).

4. When and how should I tell the School about a possible exposure to COVID-19?

Please notify the School immediately if your child or a family member living in the same house is being tested for COVID-19 or if there has been close interaction with a confirmed case.

Please call the school on 57222144 or email office@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au

5. Who do I contact at the School if I have any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the relevant person below:

Junior School	Mr Greg Newbold	gnewbold@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au
Middle School	Ms Lauren Lee	llee@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au
Senior School	Mr Keith Willett	kwillett@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au
Principal	Mr Nick Jones, Principal	njones@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au
Main Admin	Administration Team	admin@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au
School Counsellor	June Stamp	jstamp@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au
Pastoral Support	Reverend David Jones	djones@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au
Pastoral Support	Deacon Cathy Carden	ccarden@cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au

6. What is the School doing to minimise the risk of exposure to the virus?

The School is actively putting strategies into place to minimise the risk of exposure to the virus, including:

- Ensuring all bathrooms have soap and paper towels for hand washing
- Making hand sanitiser available in key areas of the School, such as the Sub-School receptions
- Additional cleaning services, including daily cleaning of metal surfaces such as hand rails
- Putting up posters to encourage good hygiene
- Educating students and staff on social distancing protocols
- Cancelling of all large gatherings and events, such as assemblies, camps and some excursions

7. Who CANNOT attend School?

We require students and family members to refrain from attending the School or School events if:

- You are feeling unwell or displaying symptoms of the virus such as
 - Fever,
 - Flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and headaches,
 - Difficulty breathing.
- You have travelled internationally within 14 days
- You or a family member are awaiting test results for COVID-19

8. Who CAN attend School?

All students are expected to attend unless they meet the above criteria or are generally unwell. At this stage the Australian Government recommends continuing essential daily activities including school. If you decide to keep your child home they will be marked as absent and their teachers will do their best to provide work online which they can complete at home.

9. Should my child wear a face mask at School?

The Department of Health does not recommend the use of face masks for the general public to prevent the risk of contracting COVID-19.

For more information see the Australian Government's [Information on the use of surgical masks](#) website.

10. Will the School close if a student or staff member is confirmed as having COVID-19?

Any closure of the School will be determined based on the advice from the Victorian Health Department's Chief Health Officer if a student or member of staff tests positive for COVID-19. The School would close temporarily while assessment and tracing of possible exposure is conducted. A thorough School clean would then be carried out to ensure the School is safe for the return of students and staff.

Parents will be advised at the earliest possible opportunity, however, please be mindful that the departure of over 1,000 students will take time to implement. The School's Executive Team have a plan in place for the safe and orderly evacuation of students if required.

During any period of closure, our teaching staff will deliver Distance Learning Programmes. Our Executive Team and Teaching and Learning Leaders already have systems in place.

11. Do I need to self-isolate?

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or possibly exposed to the virus, you must stay at home and self-isolate to prevent the spread of the disease to other people.

The Australian Government has also mandated that all travellers returning from overseas after Sunday 15 March 2020 must self-isolate for 14 days.

Staying at home means you:

- Do not go to public places such as work, school, shopping centres, childcare or university
- Ask someone to get food and other necessities for you and leave them at your front door
- Do not let visitors in - only people who usually live with you should be allowed in your home.

The Prime Minister has stated that if an individual in a household is in self-isolation due to overseas travel that the rest of the household DOES NOT need to self-isolate if the returning person has no symptoms. However, they should practice social distancing (maintaining a 1.5 metre distance from the person) as best they can and increased hygiene standards should be adopted.

For more information see the Australian Government's [Home Isolation Information Sheet](#) or visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

12. I am experiencing financial stress due to the virus pandemic. Who can I talk to?

The School understands that this is a challenging time for many of our families due to the uncertain economic climate caused by the virus. If you have any concerns regarding payment of School fees, we encourage you to please contact our Accounts Department.

Coronavirus Health Information Line

Call this line if you are seeking information on coronavirus (COVID-19), run by the Department of Health. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

1800 020 080

References: This document has been prepared using information from the following websites: [Australian Government Department of Health](#), [VIC Department of Health](#) and [World Health Organization](#).