



10 March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

**RE: Coronavirus Update**

The King's College is committed to providing you with the most up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus in order to best ensure your children's safety. Therefore, this letter will cover a number of areas relevant to the Department of Health's current focus on preparation and precautions that can be put in place to slow the transmission of the coronavirus.

Please be reminded that the Department of Health continues to advise that the risk of transmission of the coronavirus in Western Australia remains low; however, they are monitoring the situation. The College will continue to act on any advice from the Department and any recommendations from the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA).

**Symptoms and Transmission**

Most people infected with coronavirus experience mild symptoms and recover. Infected people may experience: fever; flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue; and/or shortness of breath. Some infected people go on to experience more serious illness and may require hospital care. People over 40 seem to be more vulnerable to serious illness than those under 40. People with weakened immune systems and people with conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease are also more vulnerable to serious illness.

Most coronavirus infections are only transmitted by people when they have symptoms. The virus is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious;
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes; or

- touching objects or surfaces (such as door handles or tables) contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

### **Preventing Transmission**

Students should be encouraged to:

- wash hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty;
- wash hands with soap and water and use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), before and after eating or prior to food preparation;
- wash hands with soap and water after going to the toilet;
- avoid using handkerchiefs;
- cough and sneeze with a tissue or bent elbow, dispose of used tissues immediately, and use ABHR or soap and water;
- avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose;
- wash hands with soap and water or ABHR when caring for the sick;
- if unwell, avoid contact with others;
- make sure workplaces are clean and hygienic, surfaces (e.g. desks and tables) and objects (e.g. telephones, keyboards) need to be wiped with disinfectant regularly; and
- wash hands or use ABHR after handling animals or animal waste.

The Department of Health does not recommend the use of face masks for the general public to prevent the risk of contracting coronavirus. See the Australian Government fact sheet 'Information on the use of surgical masks' for further information, available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/novel-coronavirus-COVID-19-information-on-the-use-of-surgical-masks>

### **School Attendance**

#### **Flu-like Symptoms**

In light of recent concern, precautionary measures need to be considered. Therefore, I am giving a directive, effective immediately, to all our College families:

- That anyone with flu-like symptoms self-isolates and does not attend the College until they have attended a testing clinic and returned a negative test for the virus.
- That if your child does have COVID-19 symptoms and has had possible exposure to the virus, they should not attend school until they have medical confirmation that they do not have the virus, as per WA Health Department guidelines.

## Overseas Travel

Students and parents/carers, as well as visitors and volunteers, cannot come onto College grounds and need to self-quarantine if they have:

- a) left or transited through mainland China in the last 14 days, they must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of leaving mainland China;
- b) left or transited through Iran on or after 1 March, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after leaving Iran;
- c) left or transited through the Republic of Korea, on or after 5 March, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after leaving the Republic of Korea;
- d) been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

Parents/carers are asked to notify the school if their child needs to be away for an isolation period and confirm the date in which they were last in mainland China, Iran or the Republic of Korea. A medical certificate is not required for return to school.

All returned travelers who have travelled in or transited through “higher risk” countries (Mainland China, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea) or “moderate risk” countries (Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand) in the last 14 days should self-monitor for symptoms and immediately isolate themselves if they become unwell.

If your child has travelled or transited through China, Iran or Republic of Korea in the past 14 days AND has respiratory symptoms such as a sore throat, cough, shortness of breath or fever, you should call your GP or call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080 and advise them of their symptoms and travel history.

If your child is attending a GP or requires urgent medical assistance at an emergency department, you should telephone ahead and tell them that they have been to China, Iran or Republic of Korea and are unwell. This will prevent other people at the health service potentially being exposed.

If your child has serious symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, call 000 for urgent medical help. You should advise the Principal if your child develops symptoms and is being tested for the virus, particularly if they have been at school. Public health authorities may contact the Department of Education in the event a student is confirmed to have the virus.

If your child does have symptoms and has had possible exposure to the virus, they should not attend school until they have medical confirmation that they do not have the virus.

### **Planned International Travel**

Whilst the College does not have any planned international excursions, please be aware that such trips have been banned in Western Australian schools, until further notice, except for travel to New Zealand (providing it does not transit through Asia).

**Please be assured that the College will continue to follow best advice provided by government authorities. Given that, if you are intending to travel overseas during the April holidays, please contact the College to notify us of your plans and to arrange a meeting with the Principal as soon as possible. Please call Reception on 9411 4100 or email Joanne Housego, PA to the Principal, on [joh@tkc.wa.edu.au](mailto:joh@tkc.wa.edu.au)**

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Orlando dos Santos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Orlando dos Santos  
Principal