



# Francis Jordan Catholic School

Peterborough Drive, Currambine WA 6028  
www.fjcs.wa.edu.au

10 March 2020

Dear Parents

## Updated Information Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

I write to all families in order to give you information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Symptoms of COVID-19 relate to a fever or respiratory symptoms - these can include a cough, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, a sore throat, or a runny nose. If you develop these symptoms, the advice is to follow the appropriate protocols and seek direction from the various data points and if directed to do so, see the recommended institution and provide them with details of your travel history.

**Regardless of where you have travelled overseas, please note that if your sons or daughters are unwell with symptoms associated with this virus, we are seeking your co-operation that you please seek medical advice and keep them at home. Please ensure that they are fully well and cleared by a doctor before returning to school. Francis Jordan Catholic School will undertake to provide work throughout their absence from school during this outbreak.**

While media and public commentary in relation to COVID-19 continues to raise concerns for many in our community, public health authorities are advising that the current risk remains low in Western Australia. It is the formal advice from such public health authorities, government agencies and governance authorities that Francis Jordan will continue to respond to.

Updated advice has been received in relation to students or staff coming to Australia. The current directives state

- Any student or staff member who has been in, or transited through, mainland China (not just Hubei province) or has been in Iran, is excluded from work, school or child care services for 14 days from the date they left mainland China or Iran.
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Persons having had close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.
- Students and staff who have returned to Australia from mainland China or Iran more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms are able to return to school.

The above advice also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites. In terms of personal family travel, there are certain countries where the risk of contracting COVID19 is greater than others. This information is constantly updated. Currently, in relation to COVID19, our Government has raised the advice level for six

countries: China, Iran, South Korea, Japan, Italy and Mongolia. Please refer to the Smart Traveller website <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/> for more information about travel destinations.

Please be aware that any travel to areas cited by the Australian Government as restricted will result in the requirement to observe the 14 days quarantine period upon return to Australia and before return to school. Contact with an infected person will also require the quarantine period of 14 days to be observed. If you do plan to travel, please contact the school on 94042400 so that we may hold a record of the country you are visiting.

With the Easter break (Friday 10 April – Tuesday 28 April) in mind, I need to alert you to the possibility that the government may change their position significantly on overseas travel by next month. This could mean that your children may need to be isolated for a period upon return to Australia even if they are not returning from the currently listed countries like mainland China. As mentioned previously, such formal advice from authorities is constantly evolving. Please be assured that, as a staff, we are committed to the safety and health of your children and will continue to monitor and respond to all developments regarding this matter and I will seek to inform families of relevant updates as appropriate. Above all, our priority is the health and welfare of the students, staff and broader community. We need to remain vigilant to any potential for increased risks and take precautionary measures to ensure the safest possible educational environment for our students as they continue to engage in their prescribed education program. As advised, the school has increased the availability of hand washing and hand sanitising materials and all students have been instructed and encouraged to be particularly mindful of adopting effective hygiene practices. This may be a good time to have similar discussions regarding good hygiene with your children, if you have not already done so.

As we continue to respond to COVID-19 in our community, please be assured that the Department of Education, Catholic Education Western Australia, and the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia will continue to respond as a collaborative team to advice from the WA Department of Health and provide updated advice to schools and staff as appropriate. Francis Jordan Catholic School will respect such advice as it is provided, respond accordingly and promptly inform families as appropriate. The WA Department of Health has updated information including frequently asked questions about the COVID-19. To view this information visit <https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>

Thank you for your support in this significant public health matter.

Your sincerely



Principal

Francis Jordan Catholic School Currambine.