

28 January 2020

Memorandum

To: Diocesan Directors; Principals of RI and PJP Schools; ACSP; CCSP; Federation of RI and PJP Schools NSW/ACT

From: Danielle Cronin, Director of Education Policy

Subject: Novel Coronavirus – Updated Advice

FOR ACTION: PLEASE COMMUNICATE THIS ADVICE TO YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Further to our recent communications on the Novel Coronavirus, I wish to update you on this afternoon's announcement by the New South Wales government, issued by the Ministers for Health and Education.

The NSW Departments of Health and Education have recommended that any student who was in China over the past 14 days should not return to school or childcare services this week, as the coronavirus' incubation period can be as long as two weeks. Students who returned to Australia more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms should be able to return to school this week.

The same advice applies to staff in Catholic schools.

The NSW Government has indicated that this afternoon's announcement, whilst not medically necessary, is a precautionary measure in line with community expectations.

There is a small number of confirmed Novel Coronavirus cases in New South Wales.

In addition, and as previously advised staff and students should be excluded from work and school if they are a:

- Confirmed case of Novel Coronavirus – exclusion will remain in place until they are medically cleared to return
- Close contact of a confirmed case of Novel Coronavirus - exclude for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.

Close contact is defined as living in the same household, 15 minutes face-to-face contact with a person with confirmed coronavirus in any setting, or sharing a closed space with a person with confirmed coronavirus for more than 2 hours.

NSW Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in New South Wales. Advice about not attending school would be provided to these close contacts.

Catholic Schools NSW continues to work closely with the Ministry of Health to monitor and respond to the unfolding international Novel Coronavirus situation.

In accordance with normal protocols staff and children who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. Schools should continue to follow infection control guidelines.

The school should report any suspected or confirmed cases of Novel Coronavirus to the Diocesan office (Systemic schools) or Catholic Schools NSW (RI and PJP schools) and contact the local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 to provide details so that the Public Health Unit can follow up as necessary.

CSNSW will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep you up to date on this matter. We are developing Frequently Asked Questions on this topic.

We ask that you communicate this advice to your school communities as soon as practicable.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Gerard Delany from this office on 0412 151 953 or via email, gerard.delany@csnsw.catholic.edu.au.

We are aware boarding schools have particular issues with students returning from overseas and we encourage you make contact should you require further advice.

Kind Regards

Danielle Cronin
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Catholic Schools NSW