

## COVID-19 Update – A special message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I am writing to you regarding the evolving situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19). Recently we received advice that led to the decision to suspend our overseas mission's program until further notice. While we are devastated that this has occurred, we believe this was the responsible decision to make for both the health of our students, and the villagers in Cambodia to whom we seek to serve. We will continue to monitor travel advice provided by the Australian Government via Smart Traveller, and will review the situation as new information is provided. Please pray for the many NGO's and Missions Organisations impacted by this situation.

At Parklands we continue to receive information from Queensland Health via Independent Schools Queensland as they monitor the situation and identify and manage any impacts on schools. Can I encourage us all to be vigilant and work together as we respond to the advice provided by Queensland Health. If your child develops flu-like symptoms, please:

- keep your child at home;
- avoid close contact with others such as touching, kissing or hugging, or any mass gatherings,
- especially those involving other children;
- see a doctor or contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) immediately;
- seek medical advice if your child has other underlying medical conditions; and
- call ahead to the medical centre or doctor's surgery, advising of your child's symptoms

It is also important to continue to encourage your children to:

- wash their hands regularly with soap and water, particularly before and after eating, and after going to the toilet;
- use alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap is unavailable;
- cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of their elbow; and
- dispose of tissues in the bin immediately.

Further advice and information about the coronavirus is available on the Queensland Health website: <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus> While you can be reassured that the Department of Education and Department of Health are taking all necessary measures to contain COVID-19, it is important for me to keep information flowing to parents and caregivers to ensure we are all informed and prepared as a community, should this public health issue come into our school. I thank you for your support in managing this event and supporting student awareness of the additional need for strong health and hygiene practices. Please keep praying for the health of those in our school and the wider community.

Yours sincerely,

**Gary Cully**  
Principal