

UPDATE 1 – 28th January 2020

Dear Parents,

As you will have seen in the media the situation is rapidly evolving internationally concerning the coronavirus. We have received important information from the Ministry of Education and Secretary of Health to share with you.

This is a new virus and its specific nature is currently unclear, however it appears that you can have the virus at an early stage and not be showing any symptoms. This incubation period is currently considered to be 14 days.

As our children are currently returning to classrooms the health of students and staff is a priority for all. The Ministry of Education and Secretary of Health is encouraging us all to err on the side of caution and here are some steps we need to take.

- As always anyone who is unwell should not be at school. If we have a particular concern about any child parents are asked to call the Healthline at **0800 611 116** or their GP for medical advice. Healthline has translators and interpreters available **24/7 in 150 languages** and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.
- If a child still attends school while showing symptoms the Principal of a state/integrated school can preclude them if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease (Section 19 Education Act). The student has to stay away for the infectious period of the specific disease.
- For any staff member or student who may be at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to China or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, we are encouraged to ask that the staff member or parent/caregiver of the student delay the start of their school year for 14 days and voluntarily stay away.

Please do continue to refer to the Ministry of Health's information page on their website. [Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) guidance – Ministry of Health website](#)

It is very important that you please be in contact with us as soon as possible if you have travelled to China these holidays or been in contact with anyone else who has travelled to China.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost family members because of this virus.

Warm wishes,
Mrs Carolynn Phillips
Principal

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