


MAZENOD COLLEGE

Conducted by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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Dear Boarding Parents / Guardians,

You will have received correspondence from Mr Watson regarding our College's precautions and preparations for the possibility of school closures due to COVID-19.

I am writing to you to share the precautionary measures we have undertaken, and are preparing to undertake in Boarding, to ensure that the health and well-being of our boarding community remains paramount at this time.

As mentioned by Mr Watson, we have no confirmed cases of the virus and are erring on the side of caution in our decision making

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is by practicing good hand hygiene and sneeze/cough etiquette. Staff have discussed, and will continue to emphasise with the boys, the importance of maintaining good hygiene, including:

- Frequently washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel;
- Refraining from touching either the mouth or nose;
- If coughing or sneezing, covering the nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow, disposing of the tissue immediately after use, and performing hand hygiene.

Extra supplies of hand sanitizer gel have been added to Boarding to ensure that these hygiene practices are undertaken. This includes in our Reception area, where we are asking visitors to Boarding to take a few minutes to wash and disinfect their hands before visiting with the students. Our cleaners have also been directed to work with hospital grade cleaning and disinfectant agents. From the start of Term 2, boys should also return with personal supplies of hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes.

The WA Heads of Boarding will meet on Tuesday next week where our combined weekend recreation program will be discussed. We will be guided by both the Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) guidelines as well as the West Australian Departments of Health and Education on best practices going forward. We will this weekend however, not be hosting the Year 9/10 social at Mazenod College. Participation in other recreation events will be carefully considered and some may be cancelled or modified to more appropriate activities.

It is important for boarding families to ensure that they have a Perth-based guardian **in place and willing** to care for the boys in the event that remaining in Boarding, or travelling home is not an option.

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It is important that if the boys are out on weekend leave with guardians and they become unwell with cold/flu like symptoms, **that they remain with guardians and / or seek medical advice**. This is a normal precautionary request when students are unwell, and may also extend to boarders with these symptoms being collected from Boarding by Perth-based guardians.

With travel restrictions in place for particular locations, we do ask families planning to travel during the forthcoming holidays, to notify us of their travel plans and seek advice accordingly.

Please be assured, that at this stage, these procedures are precautionary measures only and we will endeavor to keep the boarding community updated as much as possible.

Further information is available at www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus or via the Health Direct Helpline on 1800 020 080 on the virus and its symptoms.

With kind regards,



Head of Boarding

13 March 2020