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Dear Families,

I am writing to update you on Thomas More College's understanding of the impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). **Please note that, at this stage, there is no evidence of a case of COVID-19 at TMC; I am sending this out to keep you up to date and informed.** Please also take note of any actions that we are asking you to take.

### Maintaining Contact - IMPORTANT

During this time, it is vital that we can maintain contact with you and with our students. In this case, I please ask you to check the following information is accurate:

- An up to date phone number for **all enrolling parents and guardians. This will be the first way we communicate with families regarding any urgent issues** related to COVID-19 at Thomas More College. Please let the front office know if yours has changed.
- A check that all students, particularly Year 12s, **can access school emails** at home via a home internet connection or mobile phone. **This will be the first way that teachers communicate with students about any continuation of work.**

### General Health Reminders

The School is currently following through with a mix of recommended and extra actions to minimise the potential for any spread of the virus. These include:

- Working with our cleaners to advice on extra precautions for sanitation in all areas during this time.
- Reminders to practice good hygiene to protect against infection, such as sanitisers, washing hands properly, disposing of tissues, etc.
- Working through the practicalities of social distancing.
- A reminder that if your son or daughter is generally unwell with COVID related or unrelated symptoms, please keep them at home until they are feeling better.
- More detailed information is available at <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>; we ask that you also keep yourselves informed as to daily updates.

### Gatherings

Announcements from the Federal Government indicate that mass gatherings of more than 500 persons should not occur. At this stage Schools will operate as they are not affected as education is considered an essential service. Schools are also encouraged to make plans for 'social isolation' which includes reviewing the place of all gatherings and events (outside of class and other activities), regardless of student numbers. Schools will make their own calls with this and we will communicate with groups directly affected if events are cancelled or postponed. Most immediately at TMC, this means that the following events will be cancelled or postponed over the coming weeks:

- All school excursions
- Most school incursions
- Full school and most year level assemblies
- Sports trainings, events and carnivals.
- Principal's Tour
- Faulkner Centre Opening.

Smaller events which involve fewer students, where social distancing and health protocols can be closely observed, will continue where possible.

## Procedures in event of confirmed case of COVID-19 and School Closure

There is currently no reason to close Thomas More College; at the moment the ways that the College may be closed is due to a confirmed case of COVID-19, or a Government and CESA directive to do so. As a school we currently cannot make this call ourselves.

It is important to note, that in the first instance we can only act upon the advice of SA Health. We are unable to act until there is a confirmed case. Depending on when SA Health make public announcements, this could be at the same time or very close to the same time the College is advised.

Our understanding of SA Health's role in managing a confirmed case of COVID-19 is as follows:

- SA Health will notify the school of a confirmed case.
- SA Health will assess the impact of any potential spread.
- SA Health are responsible for identifying and notifying any close contacts and providing advice on treatment and/or self-isolation.
- The school site will be subjected to a thorough clean and only reopened on the advice of a health experts.

Upon receipt of advice from SA Health, confirming a COVID-19 case, Thomas More College will be required to close. In this case:

- **A school closure communication (via SMS and email)** will be sent to school authorities, parents and caregivers, staff and students.
- Students will be advised to collect their bag and will be dismissed.
- Normal end of day procedures take place with extra staff placed on yard duty.
- The school should close as quickly as possible and we will ask that all students are picked up or travel home as promptly as possible.

**Without panicking your children, I would ask you to please have conversations with them about their travel arrangements should we need to close early.** In the event of a forced shutdown from SA Health, we would look to have all students and staff offsite within a 30-45 minute period, so it is important that you have thought and talked through what this may mean for your family. I recognise this is not an easy conversation to have.

## Contingencies to continue learning during any closure

Thomas More College is well prepared for learning to continue in the event of an enforced shutdown should we decide that it will. At this stage the priority for planning has been around Year 12 students (and Year 11 English and Maths students) given the compulsory element of the SACE; however, in any instance, any learning that will continue will be communicated to students **via school email**. In this sense we ask again that all students ensure they can access emails from home.

Thank you for your cooperation during this uncertain time. The best we can do is to stay healthy, prepared and in communication with each other as the situation unfolds. I will endeavour to keep you up to date with any changes from these circumstances. In the meantime, if your son or daughter is feeling particularly concerned during this time, please ask them to remain calm and speak to their Wellbeing Teacher or Year Level Director. Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families and contact me if you feel you need to.

Take care,



**Corey Tavella**  
Principal