



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for your support with reading our ongoing updates regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As you would be aware, things are changing regularly.

Due to a number of emails over the weekend, we have decided to update the IPS community with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. The following FAQs are provided with information that may assist you and your family at this time. Please note that Immanuel Primary School will continue to monitor advice from government and health authorities, and you will continue to be updated.

Here are some questions being asked by our Parents/Caregivers:

1. Will IPS major events still be going ahead? (Sports Day, Canberra Trip, Bible Presentation, Quiz Night etc)

The leadership team are meeting regularly to make major decisions around postponing or cancelling community-based gatherings. We are also in regular contact with the task force at the College so that we are aligned in our approach to gatherings. We have been reviewing all school-based activities and assessing them for the level of risk. Our decisions around the cancellation of events will be informed by the March 15 update given by Prime Minister Scott Morrison. We have a responsibility to practice social distancing by reducing the number of people on the Immanuel Primary School site. It is highly likely that some of our Worship services, excursions, and other major events including Sports Day will be postponed or modified to limit the number of visitors to the school. We will inform you as soon as any decisions are made.

2. Are students from families who have recently travelled overseas allowed to be at school?

The Federal Government have advised that, from March 15 onwards, all incoming travellers to Australia from overseas must self-isolate for 14 days.

In-line with Commonwealth advice, the current advice is:

Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.



All returned travellers who develop Coronavirus symptoms (especially fever and cough) should seek testing for COVID-19 and continue to self-isolate while awaiting test results.

Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded from school/childcare/the workplace until they are medically cleared to return.

If children are unwell after travelling regardless of destination, they should be kept at home and medical advice should be sought.

3. What should I do if my child is feeling unwell?

If your child is ill or displays flu like symptoms, seek medical advice and do not send your child to school.

If you receive confirmation that your child or a member of your family has Coronavirus (COVID 19) please notify the school as soon as this is known. A child awaiting test results should be isolated at home.

A child, whose family member becomes a confirmed case, will need to be picked up immediately if he/she is at school and isolated as per recommendations.

4. What happens if my child or another child seems to display Coronavirus like symptoms while at school?

While Coronavirus is of concern, it is important to remember that most people displaying symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat or tiredness are likely suffering with a cold or other illness – not Coronavirus.

Nevertheless, if a child becomes unwell at school, the usual school routine of care, separating that child from their classmates and calling a parent/caregiver to collect them would be followed, if it is deemed preferable for the child to go home.

5. What will happen to my child's education if he/she is to be isolated for 14 days?

If a child is **unable** to attend school, we will work with you to ensure that we minimise the impact on their learning. Your child will be able to continue to access their learning and homework via Google Classroom, Seesaw and email communication with teachers.



6. What happens if there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus in the school?

The school will communicate with families and follow the advice from AISSA and SA Health. It is likely the school would close for at least 24 hours while it is cleaned, and health authorities trace virus contact between individuals. Health authorities will declare that the school has followed all expected protocols and allow the school to reopen.

The school will keep you informed during any closure period via email. Parents would be advised when students are able to return.

7. What education is happening about Coronavirus at school and what can I do to help relieve any anxiety for my children?

Posters from health authorities have been distributed to all learning spaces and placed in toilets.

Students have been reminded about general health, the importance of handwashing and refraining from touching their face.

Tips to support your child

Ask your children what they know already. Find out what they understand so you know where to start.

Don't dismiss or minimise your child's fear — validate their concerns. It is reasonable to be concerned because most have probably never experienced anything like this before.

Make your explanation age appropriate, provide facts, and keep it positive and calm. Reassure them that right now the risk of getting the Coronavirus is low and if contracted most people only get cold-like symptoms.

Do not make it a one-time conversation. Keep checking in to see if they need reassurance or if they have any new questions.

If you have particular concerns about how your child is responding to information about Coronavirus, please speak to your child's class teacher, Lisa Carey (Student Counsellor) or Jodie Fraser (Wellbeing Leader) for advice and support.



For more information about talking to and supporting your child, click on the link below to hear advice from Australia's leading Child Psychologist Dr Michael Carr Gregg.

https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus

8. How can I assist to support the school and its measures to keep staff and students safe?

Maintaining good hygiene standards is an important way to reduce the risk of acquiring and spreading respiratory infections. We ask parents and carers to promote good hygiene including handwashing with soap, as it is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease. If your child is unwell, please keep them home as this is the best place for them to receive the rest and care they need.

Please support and adhere to all recommendations regarding isolation, hygiene practices and social distancing. These methods require everyone to work together, regardless of their personal risk, to protect our most vulnerable community members.

9. What does isolation really entail?

Please read the following information

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-need-to-know>

and <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance>

10. Where/how can I access the most up to date information about COVID-19?

Regarding updates from Immanuel Primary, we will communicate to you via email. It is likely in the case of a school shutdown, we would use SMS, email and the Skoolbag app.



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The Australian Government health.gov.au, SA Health and SmartTraveller are the main authoritative source of information about COVID-19 (as opposed to relying on the media and social media).

11. Who do I contact regarding COVID-19 matters at Immanuel Primary School?

Please direct all enquiries to principal@immanuelps.sa.edu.au

This email address is monitored regularly, and you will receive a response within 24 hours.

For your reference, please refer to the following official websites which provide the latest information:

www.health.gov.au

www.health.gov.au/covid19-travellers

Thanks for your ongoing support and be assured that the safety and welfare of the children in our care is of the utmost importance to us.

Bec Clements

Principal