



16.03.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I understand that the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) is of great concern to us all. As the Principal I have been receiving constant updates from the Department of Education to inform schools of the latest updates on the COVID-19 and procedures to be followed.

The following information is the current update as of 15th March 2020 informing schools on the latest directives from the Department of Education. These are the procedures we are following until further updates and changes to directives.

No government school is currently closed or in the process of being closed. We will be informed directly if there is any prospect that our school will be closed, either as a stand-alone school closure or as part of a local or area-based closure. We will then be provided with detailed advice, a step-by-step guide and communication resources to support our community through that process.

The Commonwealth Government has announced that mass gatherings of more than **500** people are now prohibited. **This explicitly does not include schools running normal teaching and learning programs.** It does, however, apply to any school event that involves attendance by community members who are not students or staff where total attendance will exceed 500. *This is where we are fortunate to be a smaller school allowing us to continue as normal.*

Over the past few weeks you would have heard some misinformation regarding school closures, etc. Please be assured that we as a school are taking this situation very seriously and are following the Department of Education and DHHS's advice and directives. You as Parents and Carers will be informed immediately of any changes to procedures or disruptions to school through closure via an information letter, our website and Facebook.

We realise how difficult it is especially for working parents and parents with other commitments. As of today we are not certain if or when Schools may close.

Further information can be found on the Department website: Department of Health and Human Services' coronavirus website : <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Please read the Statement on School Closures in Victoria from Dr. Brett Sutton from the Department of Health and Human Services on the back of this letter.

Thank-you for your trust in the school at this time.

Regards,

Robyn Gregson

Principal – Altona North Primary School