

MANJIMUP SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Rutherford Street
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Manjimup WA 6258

Independent Public School
Ms Kerry Mather, Principal

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Dear Parents,

This letter is to provide you with an update in regards to the COVID-19 virus, the impact on the school and actions to be taken.

The School is being guided by the Education Department who receive regular updates from the Department of Health.

Attendance at school

Who cannot attend school:

From midnight on the 15 March, the Prime Minister imposed a mandatory 14-day self-isolation requirement on all international arrivals into Australia.

Students or staff cannot attend school and need to self-quarantine if they have travelled overseas and they are required to self-isolate or quarantine for 14 days.

Students or staff who have been tested for COVID-19 should follow the advice of the Department of Health and stay away from school whilst awaiting results.

The above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

International Travel

At present all international school excursions are cancelled.

The Smartraveller level advice for all Australian's travelling overseas has been upgraded to a level 3 – 'reconsider your need for overseas travel' at this time. In addition to this, some countries remain at a level 4 – 'do not travel'.

Regardless of the destination, age or health of the traveler, if the overseas travel is not essential, the Australian Government has asked people to reconsider travelling.

Students who are sick

We ask that you keep your child at home if they show any signs of being ill. They should remain at home until symptoms no longer exist.

Activities

Current advice from the Australian Government is for non-essential mass gatherings attended by more than 500 people to be cancelled. In addition, recent advice from the Department of Education WA is for schools to reconsider the need for non-essential activities where there are less than 500 people present. **The announcement was very clear that there is currently no need for school closures.**

Following this advice, we have made decisions to cancel or postpone some events. This is a most unfortunate situation, but must be done to contain and slow down the spread of the virus.

The following applies to activities/events planned for Term 1 and Term 2:

Term 1

18/3/20	Scott Darlow Incursion postponed until Term 4
18/3/20	Year 12 Visual Arts Excursion to Perth - cancelled
20/3/20	Have Sum Fun Excursion to Bunbury - cancelled
23-27/3/20	Year 11 Workplace Learning – under review
25/3/20	Hawaiian Ride for Youth – cancelled
30/3/20	Year 12 Geography Excursion to Greenbushes - cancelled
1/4/20	Open Day – postponed TBA
4/4/20	School Ball – postponed - Term 2 Saturday 27 June
9/4/20	Gala Day - cancelled

Term 2

29/4/20	ANZAC Day Service - cancelled
6/5/20	Parent Teacher Meetings – postponed
8/5/20	Interschool Athletics – cancelled
13/5/20	Assembly – cancelled
27/5/20	Big Science Competition - cancelled
Week 10	Country Week – cancelled by School Sports WA

Decisions will to be made regarding activities from mid-Term 2 onwards and parents will be notified towards the end of this term.

Contacting the School

Communication with the school is important, especially given the current status. Parents/guardians can contact the school via phone or email.

Visitors to School

To limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, visitors to the School must be kept to a minimum. We ask, where possible, that you use other forms of contact such as the phone or email.

If you are unwell please do not come into the school.

Protect yourself and others against COVID-19

Please support the advice we are giving students by discussing and modelling these practices at home:

- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel.
- Refrain from touching your mouth and nose.
- When you cough or sneeze, cover your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow.
- Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene.
- Exercise personal responsibility for social distancing.
- Avoid close contact with anyone if you, or they, have cold or flu-like symptoms.

As our response to COVID-19 is all about containment, I want to thank you for your support. We will continue to keep you updated. Your ongoing vigilance in the effort to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community is appreciated.

Kind regards

Kerry Mather
Principal
Manjimup Senior High School

17th March 2020