



**ST HILDA'S SCHOOL
GOLD COAST**

30 January 2020

**UPDATED ADVICE FROM QUEENSLAND HEALTH ON MINIMISING RISK WITH THE
CORONAVIRUS - RELATING TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Dear Parents and Guardians

The Queensland Department of Health has updated advice for anyone who has travelled to China in the past 14 days.

Childcare, school and TAFE students:

- Returned travellers who have visited China or Hong Kong, should not attend school, childcare or TAFE for 14 days after leaving China or Hong Kong
- This includes students, teachers and anyone who works or attends these facilities.

This is a precautionary measure following brand new advice around the timeframe that people may be contagious before showing symptoms. Please see the notification at

<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus>

Upon receiving this advice, St Hilda's School is advising all families travelling from China and Hong Kong to not attend school until at least the end of next week (7 February), or 14 days after leaving China or Hong Kong. This directive includes teachers, staff, and visitors to St Hilda's School.

I appreciate that for many of you this will be frustrating news given all children attended school yesterday, apart from the few who were already observing self-quarantine. However, in this situation we must act upon the advice of the Queensland Government which has superseded previous advice available on return-to-school information.

We will continue to follow the advice of the Queensland Government regarding this issue and ask for your understanding as we seek to support all our families, which includes Boarders, Day Girls and Homestay. We will continue to communicate today with our Boarding students and parents, and our Homestay students and providers as arrangements are finalised this morning for students' care during this period.

I ask you to keep all members of our community in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with this new challenge which for many is additional to natural disaster and other significant events impacting on people's wellbeing. Please also keep in mind those across China who are affected by this virus - many have family, friends and close associates who I know they will be concerned for during this time.

Below are some questions we anticipate you may have – the responses we hope are a helpful guide.

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Who do I need to advise that due to recent travel to China or Hong Kong, my daughter will be not be attending school?

Please email the relevant Head of School - Director of Pre-Prep or Head of Junior, Middle or Senior School - and include the date on which your daughter/family left China or Hong Kong.

Who should I contact about my daughter/s' schoolwork if she is currently unable to attend?

The Head of Learning and Teaching, Heads of Junior, Middle and Senior School, Heads of Year and Form Teachers are currently preparing for those girls who will be unable to attend St Hilda's School in the coming weeks. Your daughter's Form Teacher (Junior School) or Head of Year (Middle/Senior School) will be in contact shortly regarding arrangements for schoolwork.

What if I have visited my GP earlier this week and received Doctor's Clearance?

The updated advice from Queensland Health authorities supersedes all previous communications. Queensland Health now strictly advises that **ALL** those who have visited China or Hong Kong, should not attend school, childcare or TAFE for 14 days after leaving China or Hong Kong.

This is a precautionary measure following brand new advice around the timeframe that people may be contagious before showing symptoms.

Anyone with the symptoms below who has travelled to or through China in the past 14 days should visit a GP immediately:

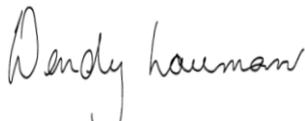
- Fever
- Flu-like symptoms such as a cough, sore throat or headache
- Difficulty breathing.

Please call ahead and advise of your symptoms and recent travel before your appointment so the clinic can take necessary precautions.

I am an International Student - do I need to contact Immigration and will this affect my attendance requirements?

The Department of Immigration has provided Schools with a procedure to follow should any International Students be required to delay their return to school due to Coronavirus precautions. St Hilda's School will advise Immigration of student updates. This will not impact the Attendance Requirements of Student Visas. Should you have any questions, please contact Kaitlin Barrell, International Connections Officer: E: kbarrell@sthildas.qld.edu.au P: 5577 7297

Yours sincerely



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