



17 March 2020

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Dear Parents and Care Givers,

Novel Coronavirus 2019-COVID-19- Updated Advice and Contingency Planning

I contact you today to provide you both with information, and some assurances in this most uncertain of times. The rapidly developing COVID-19 pandemic is, understandably, causing widespread fear and anxiety. As your Principal I very much take this on board and want to reassure the community of the Australian International Islamic College that we are taking every proactive step possible to not only preserve the safety and welfare of our students and our community, but to ensure we have plans in place for what is a very uncertain future.

Let me be clear by reiterating that AllC has **no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19**. However, we would be remiss to not put plans in place to prevent this from occurring, or to plan for such an eventuality.

What are the signs and symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of breath

If you are experiencing any of these signs, please seek the advice of a doctor as a high priority and self-isolate until you are cleared. Self – isolation means that you remain in your home with no contact outside the home.

Health Advice for Students

Any student who is unwell is asked to stay at home. Any student who presents at school who is unwell will be immediately sent home. Please be mindful that regardless of whether the symptoms are that of COVID-19, we cannot have unwell children at school. If you are phoned to collect your child, we need your cooperation in collecting them **immediately**.

Keeping our Children Safe at School

This morning I have issued a directive that all non-essential, non-core school activities are to be cancelled or postponed. This is in direct response to the Departmental directive on social distancing and to limit community exposure. This helps protect not just our children, but our families and the broader community.

This means that for the foreseeable future we ask parents and carers to drop their children at school, but to refrain from entering classrooms, or congregating at the school. Non-core events that are currently cancelled include

- Harmony Day (Thursday 19 March)- Students are still invited to wear appropriate cultural dress and will participate in classroom activities- no shared food
- Swimming at all campuses is being postponed indefinitely
- Cross Country has been postponed
- The annual Qur'an competition is being postponed. This is a pivotal event in our calendar and will be rescheduled when safe to do so
- Other campus-specific events not related to core teaching and learning will be cancelled or postponed.

Arrangements for Salah and Jumah

In these trying times, we must make decisions that put the health and wellbeing of all at the heart of what we do. For this reason, I have issued a directive, with the full support of our College Imam's regarding Salah and Jumah

Salah

- Prep – Grade 4 will not have a designated Salah, however all students will be welcomed to pray their Salah, privately, in their classrooms
- Grade 5 – Grade 12 will pray Salah in their own classrooms, lead by our Imam's and Year 12 leaders. On the Carrara campus, Salah for Year 5-12 will take place in the Hall
- **All students are asked to bring their own prayer mat or towel** and to take this home with them daily.

Jumah

Regular Jumah is cancelled, and we instruct that **no parent** or **family** can attend any of our campuses for Friday Jumah.

- Prep – Year 4 will not have a designated Jumah prayer, but will be welcome to pray their Salah privately in their classrooms
- Year 5 – Year 12 boys only will have Jumah prayer on the balcony or veranda immediately outside their own classroom, led by an Imam at 12:45pm on Friday. Carrara Campus will have their abridged Jumah pray for Year 5-12 boys in the Hall.
- Year 5 – Year 12 girls will remain in class, with the option for private Salah prayer, should they wish.

Contingency Planning for Remote Learning

In these uncertain times, I want to reassure the school community that we are working hard to prepare for a school closure, should this become necessary. The school will close in the event of

- confirmed case, or
- as a precaution to limit the risk to the school and the community.

At this stage there is no plan or directive to close the school, however should this eventuate, I need to be clear what will occur.

- Remote, work-from-home learning packs are being prepared by the dedicated teachers as we speak.
 - These packs will have project-based, learning enhancement materials.
 - No new work will be introduced
 - A dedicated Islamic Studies component will be included, to ensure our valued Islamic curriculum is maintained
- Assessment is being modified and no student will be disadvantaged if they need to work from home
- Work-from-Home learning packs will be distributed to students in hard-copy format this week. Please, keep this in your student's bag, ready to access should they need them.

Parents- What we need from you

Firstly, I value the trust you place in me, and my team to lead our school through this turbulent time. I ask for your patience and understanding. Further to this, I ask the following

- If your child is unwell, please **keep them at home**
- If you are **travelling**, please *reconsider* and note there will be a **mandatory isolation period** when you return. You **MUST** register all planned travel with the school admin via email.
- Please **update your contact details** (mobile phone, email and postal address) with your respective campus as a very high priority

Finally, I want to address you as the AIIIC family that we are, for we are not simply a congregation of students, parents and staff; we are a family and as such we band together in these trying times. I implore you to follow the advice of health care practitioners and to look after yourself and those that you love. Nothing is worth risking the safety of our children. Secondly, I ask for your support and faith in these testing times.

I pray that our path forward is lit, and that He guides us with clarity, and humility.

InshaAllah



Christine Harman

Principal