9 October 2020

Dear St Patrick’s Families and Carers,

**Re:** Update on COVID situation in Kilmore

I am writing to update you about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Kilmore. There has been a lot of information about the Kilmore situation in the media over the last five days and lots of discussion within the community.

I would like to reassure you that no cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) have been detected on our school site or amongst our staff.

The school has spent the last few days contacting those families who have been isolated as a result of their contact with the Oddfellows Café, and all of us are so grateful for their willingness to help protect us all.

The latest Advice from Goulburn Valley Health to the Community is:

* Those who visited Oddfellows Café in Kilmore between 30 September and 3 October, even to pick up a take away, should get tested, even if you don't have any symptoms.
* If the contact tracing team has called you to inform you are a close contact, then you will need to quarantine. In addition, The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is encouraging those who live with defined close contacts to also stay home and not attend school until the close contact in the household has been cleared or released from quarantine (14 days).
* For further advice, please contact Goulburn Valley coronavirus (COVID-19) tracing team 1800 311 070.

The Kilmore District Hospital has been set up as a drive through testing site for symptomatic people. If you are asymptomatic, you can be tested at the Kilmore Memorial Hall. More information on testing, including other testing locations, is available on DHHS's Getting tested webpage. Once you have been tested you should return home and await results.

While getting tested, please remember face masks are compulsory for all Victorians over the age of 12, with the exception of those who cannot wear a face mask due to a medical condition or disability. The DHHS website has more information about face masks.

It is important that we all continue to follow the health advice from the experts.

Our school will continue to work closely with DHHS and the Department of Education and Training (DET) and Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM) should any cases arise.

All of the staff are aware that this is a stressful time for our students and families. The school is committed to supporting the St Pats families currently in quarantine. The primary school also has nine staff who enjoyed a meal or coffee at Oddfellows over the nominated days and who are also now in quarantine with their families!  All of these staff have tested negative to the virus.

Those students in quarantine will receive work that they can complete while they remain at home. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions in regards to this.

If there are any changes due to COVID, the school will make decisions based on the welfare and safety of our students. Parents will be notified of these changes by email immediately.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank all of our families for their prompt communication and for their kind support and encouragement. The students have made an outstanding start to the Term and all the staff have commented on how quickly the students have focussed on their learning tasks.

Best wishes

**Michael Bourne**

School Principal