



# Fairholme College

## TOOWOOMBA

### Frequently Asked Questions and COVID-19 Guidelines

#### **What is the quickest way to contact the school if a student is unwell?**

Please inform the school of your child's absence via the absentee button on the app, or by phone:

**Junior School** 8am – 4pm 4688 4647

**Middle School** 8am – 4pm 4688 4681

**Senior School** 8am – 4pm 4688 4650

#### **I'm concerned about my child's safety. Can I keep her at home?**

This is a decision to be made by families, and one the College will respect given the current circumstances. In line with medical advice, however, there is no reason why those students who have not travelled to affected areas or come into contact with a confirmed case should not be at school.

#### **Is Fairholme vetting visitors to the College?**

Yes, as far as possible the school is limiting all visitors.

#### **Will parents be notified if there is a confirmed case of the virus at Fairholme?**

We will follow all protocols, as advised by the Qld Health Department. Fairholme has a specific pandemic plan that will be implemented if required. A decision to inform the school community will be made case by case, depending on if there has been close contact with people at the school. The health and wellbeing of our community is at the heart of all decisions.

#### **If a Fairholme student, family member or someone from our community contracts the virus, what is the procedure at the College?**

The College will follow the directives of the Queensland Health Department. Typically, this will involve a period of closure.

#### **Are students permitted to wear masks at school?**

No. Queensland Health advises that these should only be used by those infected and in self isolation.

#### **In the event of a school closure, how will classes and learning continue?**

We are planning alternate means of learning continuation if such a situation does occur. For Junior School students work will be set and monitored by classroom teachers and communicated through email. For Middle and Senior School students work will be set and monitored via email and through my Fairholme – our learning management system. Our Pastoral Care staff will also monitor student wellbeing.

#### **What arrangements are in place for Boarders?**

We will continue to communicate directly with our Boarding families to assess their needs and make any decisions necessary.

#### **If we choose to travel internationally during the April holidays, can our daughter return to school immediately?**

If you are travelling overseas these holidays you must advise the school. Upon return you will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, as directed by the Australian Government. Please take your child to their doctor at the conclusion of their 14<sup>th</sup> day of isolation and obtain a statement from the doctor outlining:

- The date of the visit to the doctor
- The date of your return from, or transit through, the countries you visited.
- That on this day your child appears to be in good health and does not show any symptoms of COVID-19

### **What additional steps has the school taken to prevent the spread?**

All mass gatherings are being reconsidered. This includes weekly assemblies, which have been divided to ensure large numbers of students are not in a confined area for any length of time.

The Year 12 Senior Formal and Soirée, the Interhouse Cross Country and the Junior School Musical have all been postponed. A decision to cancel or postpone any events held next term, including the College Art Exhibition and Athletics Carnival, are currently under consideration. Hand sanitisers are in every classroom, and the girls are encouraged to use them upon entering and leaving the room. Hand washing directions are in all bathrooms, and there is education and conversation around coughing and sneezing etiquette.

Additional work by cleaning staff is now underway, particularly in high traffic areas.

### **Symptoms and testing**

Common symptoms of COVID-19 coronavirus include:

- fever
- a cough
- sore throat
- fatigue
- shortness of breath.

See a doctor immediately if you have these symptoms and have travelled overseas in the past 14 days or have had contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. Before your appointment, call ahead and advise of your symptoms and recent travel so necessary precautions can be taken.

For information on COVID-19, contact 13 HEALTH ([13 43 25 84](tel:13432584)) or visit [www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus).

### **Useful links for the latest Health information on COVID-19**

For all up-to-date information from Qld Health, including media releases:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/current-status-and-contact-tracing-alerts>

For all the correct facts on COVID-19:

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

For FAQs and Myths surrounding COVID-19:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/find-the-facts/faqs-and-myth-busters>