



St Joseph's
College
TOOWOOMBA

31 July 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

Update on South East Queensland Coronavirus (COVID-19) Lockdown

As you are aware the Queensland Government has announced this morning that 11 LGAs in South-East Queensland (SEQ) will enter a 3-day lockdown from 4pm today (until 4pm Tuesday). During the lockdown, residents in the impacted areas can only leave home for one of four reasons:

- Buy essentials such as grocery and medications.
- Work if you can't work from home. Schools are only open to children of essential workers.
- Exercise within 10km of your residence.
- Healthcare.

The impacted areas are: City of Brisbane, Moreton Bay Regional Council, City of Gold Coast, City of Ipswich, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Logan City, Noosa Shire Council, Redland City, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

The lockdown restrictions also apply to anyone (unless you are an essential worker) who has been in one of the impacted areas from 1am last night (Saturday 31/7/2021) and has or will shortly return to a non-impacted area.

As St Joseph's College is not in an impacted LGA we will continue to operate as normal for the majority of our students. However, there are some exceptions to this situation, and these include:

- If you are a resident in an impacted LGA or your child has visited an impacted LGA from 1am Saturday 31 July 2021 you are required to comply with the 3-day lockdown. (The exception is children of essential workers who can attend the College.)
- If your child is feeling unwell, please do not send them to school. It is recommended that they get tested, and quarantine at home until you receive a negative result.

As we continue to actively plan to manage the implications of this virus for our College, it is important to note that we are very well-prepared for any challenges that lay ahead and our response to any situation will always be student-centred. We have included further information below that we feel you may find helpful.

Access to Learning

We are a one-to-one device community, and we will be encouraging all students and teachers to take home their devices, chargers and any relevant textbooks every afternoon to accommodate the chance of a snap lockdown being required in the Toowoomba region. We ask our parents to contact us if they do not have a working Internet connection.

In the short term, for our students who are required to comply with the current lockdown, our College we will provide support to the best of our ability via the provision of online lessons and resources in Canvas. The provision of this hybrid model (online and face to face learning) is a significant task for the teaching staff, and we are very grateful for their willingness and commitment to supporting our students. As you would appreciate this hybrid approach is not sustainable in the long term, and we look forward to our students who are in the lockdown LGAs returning to school as soon as possible.

Let's create your
best future, *together.*



College Events

As further advice is received from QLD Health and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, we will review all upcoming College events for possible cancellation or postponement. In relation to this week, we can advise this is the current situation for College events.

Week 3 - 4	Toowoomba Eisteddfod	Cancelled as of 4pm Saturday 31 July 2021
Monday 2 August	Academic Excellence Morning Tea	Continuing at this stage
	Yr 12 Academic Interviews	Continuing at this stage
Tuesday 3 August	Year 9 & 10, 2022 Curriculum Evening - 5:45pm to 6:15pm at the MacKillop Centre	Continuing at this stage
	Year 11, 2022 Curriculum Evening - 6:45pm to 7:25pm at the MacKillop Centre	Continuing at this stage
	SSI Red Lion Cup Competition	Continuing at this stage. Awaiting confirmation from organisers.
Wednesday 4 August	Yr 11 Physics Incursion	Continuing at this stage
Thursday 5 August	Yr 9 Retreat	Continuing at this stage. Awaiting confirmation from organisers.
	Junior Vicki Wilson Competition	Continuing at this stage. Awaiting confirmation from organisers.
Friday 6 August	St Joseph's College Athletics Carnival at O'Quinn Street Ovals	Continuing at this stage

Hygiene Practices

With the ongoing concern around COVID-19 we are aware of the importance of hygiene in managing this situation. As such we continue to implement the following measures:

- Increasing access to hand sanitiser for everyone, to be used regularly especially before and after breaks.
- Giving particular attention to cleaning high contact areas such as doorknobs, handrails and touch screens.
- Asking students and staff to cough and sneeze into their elbows, rather than hands.
- Encouraging students to bring their own water bottle to school which can be filled at the bubblers rather than drinking from the bubblers.
- Following the advice of Queensland Health as it comes to hand.

We are sharing this information with families to encourage matching behaviour at home. Please talk to your children about the importance of the recommended hygiene practices, especially hand washing, covering the face when sneezing and coughing and so on.

Communication

Please look out for further communication and accept that this communication is an important part of keeping our school communities healthy and safe. We will update information provided as required. If you have any concerns, please contact the College.

Let us continue to hold all who may be unwell at this time and all involved in responding to the COVID-19 situation in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kind regards



Kort Goodman
College Principal

