

12 August 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

UPDATED ADVICE ABOUT SELF-ISOLATION - OUR LADY OF MERCY PARRAMATTA

As you may be aware, a third student from Our Lady of Mercy College (OLMC) Parramatta has tested positive to COVID-19. In response to recent cases in school communities, NSW Health has issued **updated advice about self-isolation** as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19. **Please take particular notice of the dot points below in bold.**

While OLMC is not a Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) school, many siblings of students from OLMC attend CEDP schools. There are also other connections between OLMC and CEDP school communities.

The health and wellbeing of our staff, students and families remain our priority. CEDP have been in contact with NSW Health this morning. They have provided updated advice to families who have siblings at OLMC or who have a family member on staff at OLMC. This advice also applies to any students in CEDP schools who have siblings who attend Tangara School for Girls.

- In most cases, siblings of students identified as a close contact are able to return to school as normal unless they also have been **identified as a 'close contact' by NSW Health or are not able to isolate from a sibling;**
- **Where families find it difficult to isolate siblings from other family members who are a confirmed close contact of someone with COVID-19, the sibling should not attend school during the period of isolation;**
- **If a parent/carer is unable to isolate effectively from a child identified as a close contact, they should not attend work during the close contact's isolation period.** Family members of close contacts are asked to keep a very close watch for COVID-19 symptoms and follow the advice provided previously about what action to take if they have concerns.

A fact sheet about self-isolation is attached, with more information about the COVID-19 virus is available from [NSW Health](#) and from the Western Sydney Local Health District [Community Resources website](#). Here is a link to the locations of the [COVID-19 testing clinics](#). If you have any further questions that have not been addressed in the NSW Health resources, please contact 1300 338 679. COVID-19 Translation Resources are available [here](#).

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to respond to COVID-19 together. We will continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely

Steven Jones
Principal