

25 July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

On Friday 24 July, two cases of COVID-19 were reported in the Cerdon College Merrylands community. The school has been closed for deep cleaning which is taking place today (Saturday). A communication was distributed to parents, carers and staff on Friday afternoon.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) has been working closely with NSW Health to identify students or staff who have had 'close contact' with the confirmed cases and provide specialist advice. NSW Health is currently conducting 'contact tracing' and has already begun notifying close contacts and advising them what action is required. The date for the school to reopen is still to be finalised but it is expected to be early next week.

We understand that this news is concerning for many families, particularly those who attend schools in Merrylands and surrounding suburbs. Please note that the advice from NSW Health for all other schools and Early Learning Centres is that students and staff remain free to attend school or the centre as usual unless they have been diagnosed with COVID-19

- a. they have any symptoms of COVID-19, in which case they should seek testing and stay at home until notified of results and they have recovered; or
- b. they are aware or have been notified by NSW Health that they have been in close contact with a case of COVID-19 and are required to self-isolate.

This advice includes siblings of students who attend Cerdon College. Of course, we are closely monitoring these issues and will continue to keep you updated as we work together for the health and safety of our school communities.

Please continue to be mindful of symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath. If your child/children develop these symptoms, please see a doctor (call ahead to alert your doctor about the possibility of COVID-19 before visiting and take this letter with you) or go to a COVID-19 testing clinic. You can find a full list of the clinics [here](#).

The latest NSW Health Advice, Guidelines & Public Health Alerts based on locations is available [here](#). You can find the NSW Health COVID Guidelines Schools and Child Care Centres [here](#). [This link](#) can help with translation and interpreting from English, The 24-hour phone number for immediate interpreting help is 131 450.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in the response to COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

Steven Jones
Principal