



**Catholic
Education Services**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

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Dear parents and carers

As you would be aware the Cairns and Yarrabah local government areas are in a three day COVID lockdown from 4pm today (Sunday). At this stage the following protocols only apply to our schools in the Cairns Regional Council area – i.e. from Trinity Park south to Babinda inclusive. It does not apply to our schools on the Tablelands, Cassowary Coast, Douglas Shire or further afield.

1. All schools in the Cairns Regional Council area will be closed for three days except for the children of essential workers and vulnerable children. As the objective is to limit community movement wherever possible we request that the families of essential workers make alternative arrangements if at all possible within the home. Classroom teaching will not be available but children will be supervised by school staff where necessary. Before and after school care services will continue for these children only. Essential workers are those workers who cannot perform work from home.
2. All staff in our schools in the Cairns Regional Council area from tomorrow and all students Year 7 and above will be required to wear masks.
3. Unless your school makes earlier arrangements no schoolwork will be offered on Monday or Tuesday to allow staff to prepare for the change to remote learning. All Cairns schools will provide remote learning from Wednesday. School staff will use tomorrow and Tuesday to prepare for the re-introduction of remote learning from Wednesday although some schools may be in a position to begin remote learning earlier – your school will provide advice.
4. If you need to collect learning materials, texts or devices from your school on Monday please contact your school directly for local arrangements which will be designed to minimise person-to-person contact. Please do not come to the school unless you have made prior arrangements.
5. Your school will also advise local arrangements for drop and go and other parent school access arrangements. Again this will be managed to minimize face to face contact.
6. For people outside the Cairns and Yarrabah local government areas but who were in those areas after 4pm on Sunday, these lockdown provisions will also apply.

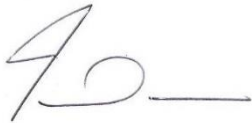
It is apparent the State's Chief Health Officer is quite concerned about this outbreak and that the case was active in the community for a number of days. We should be prepared for all possibilities.



This is a significant disruption for all of us in Cairns. We all need to be aware of the latest Queensland Health advice [available here](#), stay at home wherever possible, maintain our Covid safe hygiene practices and get tested if we have had any symptoms or been to one of the designated contact sites.

We will provide further updates as the lockdown unfolds but for now we urge our families to stay safe and stay home if possible. Our thoughts are very much with our essential workers as they continue to provide essential services to our community.

Yours sincerely



Ian Davis
Deputy Executive Director

