



# CASTLEMAINE STEINER SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

## CSSK COMMUNICATION OF UPDATES REGARDING CORONAVIRUS

**From:**

**Danilo Paglialonga**

Acting Principal

**Castlemaine Steiner School & Kindergarten**

Phone: 03 5479 2000

*date: Mar 16, 2020, 6:02 PM*

*Subject: Notice to School Community*

I would like to provide an update on CSSK's response to coronavirus (COVID-19) regarding school community health and wellbeing.

CSSK is committed to responding to COVID-19 in a way that is sensible, prudent and adaptive to the best available information. While we hope that the situation does not escalate, it is important that we all prepare for a more widespread disruption.

Around the world an unprecedented number of children, youth and adults are not attending schools or universities because of COVID-19. Governments in 73 countries have announced or implemented the closure of educational institutions in an attempt to slow the spread of the disease (unesco.org) In light of the growing evidence of COVID-19 community transmission, current estimates of the incubation period for COVID-19 ranging from 1-14 days, and the World Health Organisation's recent declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, CSSK continues to adjust our response proportionately.

While today's 'State of Emergency' declaration from the Victorian Government prohibiting certain mass gatherings of five hundred (500) or more persons currently excludes schools, universities, educational institutions or childcare facilities, the CSSK Board of Directors, College of Teachers, and Executive Team have taken the decision to bring Term 1 to an early close as a precautionary measure.

**Friday 20th March will therefore be the last day of classes for Term 1.**

*As a further precaution, we encourage all families who are able to arrange for care of their children, not to attend school for the remainder of this week. School will remain open this week for those who are unable to keep their children at home, unless government advice is given to the contrary.*

The CSSK Board of Directors, College of Teachers, and Executive Team will continue meeting on a regular basis to mitigate against possible impacts on children's learning and wellbeing. This means we are implementing solid plans to ensure the continuity of learning, but at a distance, at the commencement of Term 2 as required and as advised by the Department of Education. Distance learning may involve content sharing, online communication and attendance and participation record keeping.

CSSK's ongoing plans will include necessary steps for the eventual safe reopening of our school. We will continue to provide important information via SMS/email so that you can action advice immediately.

*We encourage parents and carers for whom the school closure creates significant hardship or other serious challenges to contact the school.*

To get through the next few weeks with as few people contracting COVID-19 as possible, it means working together right now. It means being kind to each other, thinking beyond our own households and remembering that we're all in this together.

Yours sincerely,

**Danilo Paglialonga**

**date: Mar 15, 2020, 5:06PM**

**subject: CSSK - COVID-19 Advice**

Following our advice that Assemblies are cancelled for the remainder of the term, Castlemaine Steiner School & Kindergarten now advises the following: All activities which involve anyone outside the CSSK extended family of staff, parents and students will be cancelled/postponed.

**Therefore Class 7, and Class 8 Camps, excursions and incursions are cancelled for the remainder of Term 1.**

We ask that all members of the CSSK Community self-isolate from school if:

- you have attended any mass gatherings such as festivals lately
- you feel unwell, or show flu like symptoms
- you have travelled overseas or
- you have been in contact with anyone known to have contracted COVID-19

Please aim to minimise non-essential activity out of school hours. Our aim is for CSSK family members to remain, as far as possible, within our regular sphere of contacts.

Otherwise, school will continue to provide our regular classroom programs.

We particularly would like to assure you that the aim for these measures is not to alarm and cause anxiety.

Our commitment is to ensure the wellbeing and care of all community members, especially to protect those who may be more vulnerable to the impacts of the COVID-19.

We believe these are sensible precautions while we await appropriate guidance from government authorities.

*The Department of Education, Skills, and Employment has today launched an updated [COVID19 landing page](#). This page has been redesigned to make it easier for students, parents and education providers, as well as job seekers and employment service providers to find information about managing risk associated with COVID-19.*

Regards

**Danilo Paglialonga**

14/03/20 – 2:17pm  
SMS - CSSK do not reply

*Apparently some parents did not receive this SMS yesterday - so resending as it affects Monday assembly - apologies if you have already seen this.*

Dear Parents,

Whilst we don't want to add to the anxiety around COVID-19, as a precautionary measure, today CSSK have decided to cancel Monday assemblies for the rest of the term. Assemblies were seen as an avoidable whole community indoor gathering. We suggest you look at the following DHSS link so that you have a practical tool for assessing your risk (this should be done regularly) and ideas to reduce risk. <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

The school is currently reviewing our business and educational continuity plans and will keep you updated with any directives from the Department of Education as we receive them.

Best regards, CSSK

13/03/20 4:13pm  
SMS - CSSK do not reply

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Best regards, CSSK

10/3/20 - 11:33am  
**SMS - CSSK DO NOT REPLY - COVID-19 Update**

Dear CSSK Community, we are continuing to monitor our school's safety with relation to COVID-19. We receive daily updates from the relevant government departments and will act on any advice issued. If you or a family member is tested for COVID-19 we ask that you notify the school so that we can act quickly to map any possible spread.

Thanks The Office.

