



# MINARET COLLEGE

*Islamic College of Melbourne South and East*

11 March 2020

Dear Minaret Family

Assalam Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

InshaAllah this letter finds you in the best state of health and iman.

At the start of the year, I wrote to families regarding the Coronavirus. I advised that the College would continue to follow the advice of the Department of Education and Training (DET) and I also committed to providing an update if there was a significant change to our approach.

Alhamdulillah there is no significant change to our approach. We continue to follow the advice of DET as well as the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). I recognise however that a second Victorian school closing today, as well as the media announcement by Premier Daniel Andrews yesterday regarding the possibility of school closures, may create concern for our community. This letter is to update our families on the actions we continue to take at the College for the ongoing safety of our students and extended community.

Actions we continue to take:

- Adhering to the government advice provided to all Victorian schools
- Educating students on good hygiene habits and the significant role they have in minimizing exposure to illness, including Coronavirus
- Identifying students or staff who have symptoms of cold or flu and requiring they stay home until well
- Identifying students or staff who have may have been exposed to Coronavirus either through travel or via contact with family members who have travelled or been diagnosed with Coronavirus. In these minimal instances, the College has required clearance from doctors before a student returns to school

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What we expect from families:

- Call our Admin team and inform the College if a student, family member or close contact:
  - has been diagnosed with Coronavirus OR;
  - has travelled to a country which is currently the subject to travel restrictions
- Avoid discussions or actions that may cause a student to panic. This may include limiting exposure to continual news images regarding the Coronavirus
- Reassure students of their safety and encourage good hygiene habits
- If your child will not be attending school, please keep us informed. For planned leave for any reason, this includes submitting an extended leave request form if planning to take leave for 3 days or longer.

In addition to the above, the College has an Emergency Management Plan which will be put into place if the situation escalates or the state or federal government requests us to do so. Such actions may include the closure of the College for a mandated period of time however as per the announcement today by the Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Brett Sutton, a decision to require all schools to close is not taken lightly. Requiring students to stay at home is not only disruptive to their learning and routine but also places additional burden on families where adult supervision may be limited during the day. We agree with this balanced approach; immediate closure of schools may seem like the most obvious measure, however it is not without consequence to students and the broader community. Minaret College therefore will continue to act in accordance with government advice.

For the Minaret Family, perhaps the most important component of our management plan is ongoing communication. Just as we expect families will continue to communicate important updates to us, we are similarly committed to keeping our families informed. Our methods of communication will continue to be letters, Facebook and the College website. In the event of closure of the College, Facebook and the College website will be our main method of communication, with SMS's reserved for more urgent updates.

Finally, the current situation has the potential to create fear within our community. This fear is understandable, particularly for those who are more vulnerable amongst us, however, in all situations, we are reminded that our ultimate reliance is on Allah (swt). Additionally, as a community, and as a Minaret Family, we are always encouraged to show unity, care and compassion towards others. While thoughts of our personal safety can become all-consuming, our opportunity will be to keep connected and show support to our family, neighbours and friends during the weeks and months ahead. If there is any way myself or my team can assist, please let us know.

May Allah (SWT) continue to protect our families and keep us all strong both in health and iman. Ameen.

Kind regards,



**Mohammed Taksim**  
Executive Principal