



22nd July 2020

Dear Families and Students,

I thought it prudent to provide an update on our current situation in relation to COVID-19. I do this in place of today's newsletter, which I will publish tomorrow.

Today, a member of our parent community responsibly informed us of a suspected COVID-19 positive test result. It has been confirmed as negative this evening. The family have kept the student home, and that young person and the whole family are undertaking testing, but DHHS has stipulated that the result was negative. We encourage all families to keep the College in the loop if you suspect a family member has been exposed to COVID-19 or may have contracted it.

To raise a concern, please contact principal@damascus.vic.edu.au or contact the College office 53372222.

We keep all families who are vulnerable to COVID-19 in our thoughts and prayers.

Today's experience provides context for increased safety precautions within our community. In addition to our current regime of; cleaning, social distancing and hygiene practices, we are now seeking to maximise the wearing of facial masks for everyone's safety for the immediate future. Please talk with your student that staff will be wearing face masks tomorrow, and if your family has the availability, we want to support students to wear face masks too as soon as possible! We hope that over the coming days families will obtain masks, and we will provide education here at school on how to wear them.

We appreciate that it is not feasible for parents to obtain them immediately, but we would like everyone to have them by next Monday.

If finances for the purchases of masks or material to make them is an issue, please contact info@damascus.vic.edu.au and we will ensure swift and confidential support.

As with all things we do, we will work with families and students on a case by case basis if wearing a mask all day presents a particular challenge.

Tomorrow's newsletter will provide a pattern if students want to make their own over the weekend. If you are seeking face masks and have not been able to secure them, the Sturt Street UFS has readily available stocks.

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Our 5 S's continue to provide a critical framework for the safety of our community and are becoming increasingly important to enable us to stay at school together.

5 S's

- Sick? Stay Home
- Stay Left & Stay Moving
- Sanitise and Sneeze Responsibly
- Social Distance at School
1.5 METRES
- Study, Stay Connected, Sleep and Nurture Your Spirit

Be. My. Best.
damascus.vic.edu.au

Take care...

Regards

Matthew Byrne
Principal