



Wednesday 29 January 2020

Dear Trinity College students,

I am sure that by now you will all be aware of the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV) which began in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and has now spread to other parts of China and the globe. The virus causes respiratory illness which in some severe cases has led to fatalities. It is also likely that the virus is transmittable from person to person before the carrier shows any symptoms of the virus. Trinity has been monitoring the development of the virus and is basing much of its response on information being provided by the World Health Organisation.

It is also worth noting that Australia's bio-security and border security policies and processes are among the best in the world, something which provides an additional layer of protection to people residing within Australia.

As a School which caters for students of many nationalities we have decided to respond to this evolving situation with an abundance of caution and to take a safety-first approach when it comes to the health of our students. Current advice suggests that the maximum incubation period for the virus is 14 days. As such we are requiring all students who have travelled from China or share accommodation with people who have recently returned from China to be in Australia for minimum of 14 days, maintaining good health throughout, before beginning or returning to classes at Trinity College. Students who have travelled from China will need to demonstrate that they have been in Australia for 14 days via the production of a flight itinerary or boarding pass.

To ensure that the academic programs within the February Main, March Extended and Academic English Programs are not compromised, Trinity has made the decision to postpone the start of classes for each program listed above for a two-week period. The revised start dates for classes for each course are listed below. We apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause students. This decision was not taken lightly and, as previously stated, was made with a safety-first approach to student health in mind.

The end date of the February Main and March Extended intakes will not change; however, there will be some reduction in holiday periods and study periods prior to examinations. The end date of the 20-week Level 1&2 Academic English Program leading to August Main will be two weeks beyond that which was originally planned.

For the February Main and March Extended students, some elements of induction and the lecture program will be delivered online during this two-week postponement period and all students will be issued with their Trinity provided iPad during that time. There will also be a range of online processes, such as subject selection, which all students will have to complete.

Amended induction and class commencement dates

- **February Main – Monday 17 February**
- **March Extended – Monday 2 March**



- **TCAEP (20-week Levels 1&2 leading to August Main) – Wednesday 4 March**

To reiterate the main points of this communication:

- **No student from the February Main, March Extended or TCAEP (20-week level 1&2 leading to August Main) should be on the campus of Trinity College until the dates listed above unless authorised to do so by the College in advance.**
- **Any student who has come directly from China or has been sharing a residence/room with a student who has recently returned from China must ensure that they have been in Australia and in good health for 14 days prior to commencing induction activities or classes at Trinity College.**
- **During the two-week postponement period all students must be available in Melbourne to complete induction processes which are essential to course commencement.**

Trinity College is well placed to look after all students from a health and well being perspective. We have two full time nurses, four student counsellors and a dedicated group of student wellbeing staff. All of these people will be available to you throughout the two-week postponement period and throughout your time at Trinity.

Please continue to monitor your e-mail over the coming days and weeks. We will send you a range of information before the end of this week detailing the support mechanisms that will be in place throughout the postponement period. For the February Main and March Extended students, we will also send you information about how and where to collect your iPad.

Please feel free to contact Trinity Academic Administration at academicadmin@trinity.unimelb.edu.au if you require assistance or advice in relation to any matter raised within this letter.

Regards,

Richard Pickersgill
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Trinity College