



Australian Government

Department of Health

Chief Medical Officer

Dear Parents of Good Shepherd Lutheran College

As you may be aware, there is currently an outbreak of a novel coronavirus in mainland China. The outbreak originated in Wuhan, Hubei Province. The Australian Government has agreed to bring Australian citizens and permanent residents currently in Wuhan, China back to Australia. The returnees will be accommodated in the Manigurr-Ma Village. I am writing to you to assure you that there is no risk to the community and this letter will explain why that is the case.

The Manigurr-Ma Village has been carefully selected to house returnees aboard the second flight from Wuhan for a 14-day quarantine period, due to it being well equipped for public health and quarantine purposes. Returnees were screened before boarding the plane in China, have been continuously monitored by medical staff during the flight and will be assessed upon entry into Australia; anyone who is unwell will go directly to hospital for treatment and quarantine.

I want to assure members of the Howard Springs community that this arrangement poses no risk whatsoever to your health or your children's health. People staying at the Manigurr-Ma Village are healthy. They are being quarantined as part of the Government's highly precautionary approach to prevent cases of novel coronavirus in Australia. People staying at the Manigurr-Ma Village are unlikely to become infectious and their health will be closely monitored.

Quarantined people will remain within the perimeter of the property throughout their 14-day isolation period and will be deliberately housed away from the perimeter fences. This will prevent any potential contact with your children and members of your community. Security staff will monitor the facility. Novel coronavirus can only be transmitted by close contact (within 1 metre of an infectious person) and cannot be spread through the air.

The safety of the Howard Springs community is of paramount importance and I am confident the security and public health measures put in place will prevent any risk to your community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Professor Brendan Murphy
Chief Medical Officer

7 February 2020