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16 3 2020 **Information for Teachers, Parents and pupils**

We need to understand the health risks for our students and staff in the current COVID -19 environment and make informed decisions about how we go ahead with managing our classes.

Good Hygiene is an obvious requirement.

Wash hands with soap regularly (teachers between classes?)

Do not touch your face with your hands

Sneeze or cough into your elbow

Do not let anyone else blow your instrument.

Do not come if you are not feeling well.

Current advice for schools is:

The most likely scenario is if a student or staff member is confirmed with COVID-19, Health may require a school to close for a day or two, to undertake tracking and tracing of close contacts.

A close contact is generally described as someone who was in near proximity (1.5 metres) of a person confirmed with the virus for 15 or more minutes.

For those with compromised immunity that is 2 metres.

For our SMMC classes this means that teachers need to be proactive and spread their pupils out so that as much as practicable we keep more than a metre apart from our neighbours.

For Orchestras and ensembles, it means that we again need to take more space between players.

At both George St and Bathgate, we need to use the Hall floor rather than the stage and again spread out within the space available. Use one stand per person rather than one stand between two.

Aart Brusse
Musical director.