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**Independent sector supports NSW Government’s coronavirus measures**

The Association of Independent Schools NSW (AISNSW) supports the NSW Government’s proposals to minimise the spread of the coronavirus through schools.

The NSW departments of Health and Education have recommended that any student who was in China over the past 14 days should not return to school this week, as the coronavirus’ incubation period can be as long as two weeks.

Students who returned to Australia more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms should be able to return to school this week.

AISNSW Chief Executive Dr Geoff Newcombe AM said the advice will be forwarded on to the state’s nearly 500 independent schools to help inform their own decision-making.

“Many independent schools have already taken measures appropriate to their particular circumstances,” he said.

“This latest advice will be provided directly to all independent school principals to ensure they are in the best possible position to safeguard the health of their students and staff.”

The NSW independent schools sector educates more than 200,000 students, or one in six NSW students.

Dr Newcombe said schools normally accommodated students who were forced to miss school due to adverse circumstances, such as the current medical risk.

“I am confident that students who are asked to stay home during this period will not be disadvantaged in their learning,” Dr Newcombe said.

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