



## COVID RESTRICTION UPDATE - 20 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earlier this week, Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Health released the following restrictions in response to the recent cases of COVID-19 in NSW schools. These measures will assist the NSW Government's aim of eliminating community transmission in NSW and will support schools to continue to deliver onsite learning.

NSW Health requires schools to:

- exclude students and staff with even mild symptoms of COVID-19 encourage immediate testing for any symptomatic child(ren) or staff prohibit return to school for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 until a negative COVID test result has been reported
- ensure that adults maintain physical distancing at all times
- ensure good hand hygiene at all times (e.g. upon entry to the school, entry to the classroom and upon exit of the classroom)
- for activities that result in the mixing of students and staff from schools from the local area (e.g. local inter-school sports competitions), develop and ensure compliance with a COVID safety plan based on the COVID safety plan template for community sports activities for local activities, limit spectators to one parent only, where parental supervision is required.

Furthermore, certain practices must cease altogether. These include:

- activities that result in the mixing of students from schools in different regions, such as sporting-related activities, drama and debating school-related
- group singing or chanting activities and use of wind instruments in groups
- school-related social activities (e.g. school formals, dinners or dances; graduation ceremonies; or parent engagement functions)
- school-related overnight events (e.g. retreats, camps, excursions) as there is an increased risk of transmission of the virus in a residential type setting with shared facilities.

At Mater Maria, we have made the following amendments to the COVID-19 safety plans that we already had in place to ensure that we are meeting these guidelines.

Reducing the Number of Visiting Adults on site -

- Instead of signing students out from the Administration office, we ask that parents picking up their children use the visitor car park outside the Administration office and call reception (99977044) on arrival without coming into the Administration office. We will sign your child out of school and witness their safe departure. To reach this car park, please make a sharp right turn once you have entered the front gate and proceed past the Marana to the visitor parking area.
- Parents who have an enquiry or would like to speak with a staff member should call the office and make an appointment. Only parents with prearranged appointments should enter the Administration Office.
- All visitors must sign in through the Administration office and complete the written COVID register.
- P&F and Board meetings will all occur via zoom until further notice.
- Parent Information Evenings will occur via a pre-recorded video and/or zoom meeting.

#### Physical Distancing, Hygiene, Reducing cohorts mixing -

- We ask that any student or staff member with even mild COVID-19 symptoms stay away from school. We ask that you contact the school and inform us of your child's absence. Please have your child tested for COVID and do not return until a negative test result is provided to the school administration.
- Teachers will continue to outline the work completed in each lesson on their Google classroom page for absent students to follow and complete work.
- It is now compulsory for students and staff to sanitise their hands on entering and leaving every classroom.
- We have allocated specific 'oval' and 'library' days to nominated year groups and asked students to only socialise within their cohort. The oval and library have been broken into areas to avoid students from various year groups mixing.
- Senior students have been allocated their own areas within the library and have full access to support them at this time as they study and prepare for exams.
- Students waiting for buses have been allocated a specific waiting area for their cohort.
- The wearing of masks is optional for students and staff.

#### Events -

- Year 12 Graduation Assembly will go ahead as outlined in the correspondence to parents. It is with regret that this event will be for Year 12 students and staff only. We will make every attempt to provide a family-inclusive celebration later in the year should the COVID restrictions allow it.
- Year 7 (2021) Orientation Days will be postponed until Term 4 - information will be sent to these families soon.

#### Sport & PDHPE -

- Representative sport can only be played against schools within the local Northern Beaches Council area.
- Peninsula Cup will continue with schools outside the NB council area forfeiting. These games can not have spectators or parents until further notice. Unfortunately, we can no longer have parents on school grounds for home games this includes spectating from afar in the car park.
- The Manly Warringah Basketball Association competitions will continue except games against Mosman because they are out of our local council area - our school teams will have to forfeit these matches to comply with the restrictions as interpreted by Catholic Schools NSW Sport.
- All Broken Bay Sport Association competitions have been cancelled for Term 3.
- Year 7 & 8 Activities - will occur at school with the exception of using the outdoor futsal courts at Pittwater RSL. Students will walk to this venue, will be supervised by Mater Maria teachers only, the facility will only host Mater Maria students and we will be using school equipment that has been sanitised.
- PDHPE - Students will continue to be able to wear PE uniform to school on days they have practical classes allocated. Students who are unable to wear full PE uniform should wear school uniform and get changed for PE. Normal consequences will be in place for uniform breaches.

#### Music -

- Unfortunately, there will be no choir and concert band until further notice.
- The use of wind instruments in the various bands and ensembles will need to stop until further notice.

We appreciate the restrictions are having an impact on our community in a number of ways. Please reach out to us if your family needs assistance in any way or if you or your child is struggling at this time. It is important that we stay strong as a community and support one another. Please inform us if your child's health condition has changed recently and they would now be considered vulnerable, so we can include them in our COVID-19 safety plans. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require clarification on anything in this document.

Hopefully, by working together we can eliminate the community transmission and keep our school COVID free.

Kind regards  
Marc Reicher