



Tuesday 27 July

Dear parents and carers,

The information within this update is focussed primarily on the return to on-site learning tomorrow. I am providing this information as early as possible to allow any final planning to be done prior to the return tomorrow. Further information, in line with the updated DET Operations Guide, will be provided as it comes to hand.

The overall intent of this document is to remind you of requirements for the return to on-site learning and to update you about key things we have done to provide a COVIDsafe space in which everyone can teach and learn.

Return to on-site learning requirements

Face Masks

It is important that students bring their own mask to the college each day.

School staff and secondary school students aged 12 or older must wear a face mask **indoors and outdoors** at school, unless an exemption applies. This includes during all classes and breaks, except when students are engaging in strenuous physical activity or eating food.

Children under 12 years of age are not required to wear face masks when at school.

Families should also be aware that, for the purposes of communicating, teachers and education support staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can.

Face masks are mandatory for all school staff and school students aged 12 or older when travelling to and from school.

Face Mask Exemptions

If your child has a face mask exemption this should be communicated to the college. We have a clear process for informing staff of students who are exempt from wearing a mask at school to ensure this effectively managed.

Density Limits

The density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metre applies in spaces used only by staff and to publicly accessible areas. It does not apply in classrooms.

Staying home when unwell

The most important action we can take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms.

Underlying Medical Conditions

If your child has persistent symptoms due to an underlying condition such as hay fever or asthma, they should still be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than usual. You should also consider getting a medical certificate from their treating GP to confirm that it is safe for them to attend school with persistent symptoms that may overlap with some of the symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose.

School Camps

Advice about school camps will be provided in a future update.

Providing a COVIDSafe Space

As well as the Return to on-site learning requirements, Castlemaine Secondary College has reintroduced the following measures:

Signs

Students will notice significant signage at entry and exit points around the college. These signs include instructions about wearing face masks, reminders about staying home if unwell and maximum occupancy limits for spaces used by staff and visitors.

Practising Good Hygiene

Sanitiser is available at all major entry and exit points throughout the college. All staff, students and visitors to schools should undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet.

Students must be aware that sharing of food is not permitted and they should use non-contact greetings (not shaking hands, hugging etc).

Cleaning

COVIDSafe routine cleaning arrangements will continue. This involves daily end-of-school-day cleaning, with a particular focus on cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, and the inclusion of some elements that were not cleaned every day prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Limiting outside visitors

Non-essential visitors will not be permitted to attend the college until further advised. Some meetings will be allowed to continue as long as COVIDsafe protocols are adhered to.

Accurate Record Keeping

Any visitors to our site must sign in at the office prior to entering the college. All visitors must also utilise the QR code signs to register their attendance at the college.

My next update to parents and carers will be on **Wednesday 28 July**.

Stay safe and I look forward to welcoming all students back on-site tomorrow.

Regards,



Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College