



Monday 23 August

Dear parents and carers,

I hope the first day with your child at home instead of on-site has gone well. All staff at Castlemaine Secondary College appreciate that this is a difficult time for students and parents and are looking forward to commencing a full remote and flexible learning program tomorrow, in line with the advice I provided in yesterday's update.

Today's update provides further information about accessing on-site supervision as well as an update on face masks and details about resources and services you can access for support.

As I have outlined previously, the Victorian Government announced changes to current restrictions across Victoria until 11.59pm, Thursday 2 September.

To help slow the spread of the virus, we need your support in complying with the new strengthened restrictions and helping our public health team to get ahead of this virus.

We request parents, carers and families continue to do the right thing by following all health directives. This includes making careful and supportive choices about accessing on-site supervision at school.

On-site supervision

From Monday 23 August, under the new strengthened restrictions in place across Victoria, an authorised worker [permit](#) will be required for authorised workers to attend a workplace.

This also means parents and carers can only request on-site supervision at school for their child/ren in the below categories.

Category A

Children where both parents and or carers are considered [authorised workers](#) who cannot work from home, work for an authorised provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made.

Where there are two parents/carers, both must be [authorised workers](#), working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision at school.

For single parents/ carers, the authorised worker must be working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision at school.

Parents and carers who are authorised workers will need an authorised worker [permit from their employers](#) to access on-site supervision for their child/ren in Category A.

For those requesting on-site learning under Category A, a copy of your authorised worker permit or permits must be submitted to Castlemaine Secondary College as soon as practicable after it is issued.

Category B

Children experiencing vulnerability, including:

- in out-of-home care
- deemed vulnerable by a government agency, funded family or family violence service, and assessed as requiring education and care outside the family home
- identified by a school or early childhood service as vulnerable, (including via referral from a government agency, or funded family or family violence service, homeless or youth justice service or mental health or other health service)

- where a parent/carer indicates that a student with a disability is vulnerable because they cannot learn from home, and/or informs the school the student is vulnerable due to family stress, the school must provide on-site supervision for that student. This may apply to students enrolled in specialist schools and students with a disability enrolled in mainstream schools.

An authorised worker permit is not required for accessing on-site supervision under Category B.

When a permit is not required

In rare circumstances, a parent/carer does not need a worker permit. This includes law enforcement, emergency services or health care workers who carry employer-issued photographic identification. More information is available at [Authorised provider and authorised worker permit](#).

I have attached an updated on-site attendance form, which must be completed and sent to Castlemaine.sc@education.vic.gov.au prior to your child attending on-site.

Face masks

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the following [requirements for wearing a face mask](#) apply to all schools.

School staff and secondary school students aged 12 or older must always wear a face mask indoors and outdoors at school, including when attending an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program, unless a lawful exception applies. This includes while travelling to and from school on public transport and when in taxis or ride-share vehicles.

For communication purposes, teachers and education support staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching, but it is recommended that they wear face masks while teaching wherever practicable.

Accessing Support

External Resources

I know this may well be a challenging time. There are supports available, which include:

- [headspace](#)
- [Student Mental Health and Wellbeing resources for advice](#)
- [Advice for students about how to adapt during COVID-19](#)
- [Resources for learning from home](#)
- [Translated resources for learning from home](#).

Vaccination Eligibility

As part of the phased COVID-19 vaccination rollout, more Victorian parents, carers, and students are now able to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

With more appointments now available over the next two weeks, we encourage you to book your vaccine through [Victorian Government's COVID-19 vaccine online booking system](#).

For more information about eligibility, refer to coronavirus.vic.gov.au or use the Australian Government's [COVID-19 vaccine eligibility checker](#).

Reception opening hours

Our school Reception will remain open every day during Remote Learning between the hours of 8:30am and 12:30pm. The school telephone line will also be open during normal office hours.

CSC Library services during remote learning

During remote learning, our Library staff will continue to provide services and programs to support students. Information on these services can be found on the Library website, which is accessible via the College website under Learning > Library.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Library with any requests or questions via the "Contact Us" link on the Library website homepage. <http://csclibrary.global2.vic.edu.au/>

Keeping in touch

Please let us know if you our child requires any extra support during remote learning. A member of our wellbeing team will be on-site each day to provide remote support for students who need it.

I also encourage you to contact teachers via email or XUNO messaging. If you can't make contact with a teacher, or if you're not sure who you should speak to regarding an inquiry, then please contact Reception via telephone (5479 1111) or email (castlemaine.sc@education.vic.gov.au).

Stay home, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all students back on-site as soon as it is safe to do so.

My next update to parents and carers will be on Tuesday 24 August.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Wood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College