



Tuesday 24 August

Dear parents and carers,

I trust you and your families are going well throughout this lockdown so far. The number of cases being discovered each day who have not been in isolation during their infectious period demonstrates the importance of continuing to follow the current Stay at Home Directions.

This update will provide a reminder about accessing on-site supervision and various levels of support available throughout this lockdown.

It is also timely to remind all parents that, under the current level of restrictions, all school events, gatherings, assemblies, and non-essential meetings are being deferred or held remotely.

On-site supervision

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.

Accessing Support

It can be challenging to process and manage changes to routines and the uncertainty that comes with COVID-19 and related restrictions – including moving to remote learning.

To support our school community during this time, resources and support are available for parents, carers and families.

These resources will help to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students and the young people in our care during this time.

I encourage everyone in our community to access these resources and take care of themselves during this time.

Services and support for students and their families

A [Quick Guide to Student Mental Health and Wellbeing resources](#) is available for students, parents and carers looking to access expert guidance and resources to support wellbeing.

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students remains our priority this year, especially during the continued COVID-19 pandemic and while students are learning from home during the current circuit breaker restrictions.

For students, the guide includes resources to support their own mental health and wellbeing.

- [Advice and resources for students](#) about ways to adapt their learning during COVID-19, to look after themselves and where to get help.
- [Wellbeing activities featuring AFL and AFLW players](#) with tips on managing stress, staying active and gratitude.
- [Smiling Mind mindfulness activities](#) for senior secondary school students, including short videos, online tip sheets and meditations.

The guide also includes resources and supports **for parents and carers** to help them build their child's physical and mental health and wellbeing. This includes:

- [resources to support children's physical, mental health and wellbeing](#)
- wellbeing activities and conversation starters for parents of [parents of primary school-aged children](#) and [parents of secondary school-aged children](#)
- [Raising Learners podcast](#) series
- how to [talk to your child](#) about COVID-19
- headspace is running [webinars](#) for parents and carers about offering support when they are concerned about a young person's mental health.

Wellbeing guidance **for parents and carers** is also available:

- [on the Department's website](#)
- headspace has created a video providing [tips to support parents and carers during lockdown](#)
- through the confidential parent support hotline, Parentline, available 8am to midnight, seven days a week, Phone: 13 22 89.

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 is on-call 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 Wednesday 25 August.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Wood', written in a cursive style.

Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College