



COVID-19 Update 20

21 July 2020

Dear Parents,

With the recent announcement from the Premier, I wanted to update you on the College's plans regarding the mandated requirement to wear masks.

From Thursday 23 July all Melbournians over the age of 12 will be required to wear masks *when they leave their home*. There are a few exceptions, most notably during strenuous exercise or when teaching a class but generally we will all be required to be in a mask when not in our house. For further information go to <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updates/coronavirus-covid-19/updated-restrictions-1159pm-wednesday-22-july-2020>

Students are required to wear a mask travelling to and from school.

At School

Secondary students over the age of 12 are required to wear masks whenever possible at school. They may remove the mask when eating and drinking.

Teachers are not required to wear a mask when actively teaching, if that assists in their communication, but they are required to wear it at other times. Other staff members will wear masks whenever practicable.

Kinder parents must wear masks as they sign their children in and out of Plenty Kids ELC.

Will the College Supply Masks for Students?

Masks are personal items and we are all required to have a supply to use outside our homes. Students and staff should source, clean and maintain their masks in a similar way to looking after any other personal items.

The College had organised a modest supply of disposable masks and like everyone else we have some on order. The government has indicated that they will supply some masks for those students who are *not able* to supply their own. We will only be able to do this for a limited time.

For the sake of reducing landfill and protecting the environment we strongly recommend that families make or purchase washable cloth masks. The Premier has indicated that a wide range of options are acceptable including bandanas and scarfs.

One Mask Each 4 Hours

Everyone one will need to have two masks per day because as they become moist from normal breathing, they become less effective. The recommendation is to change masks every 4 hours. Students will need to bring a bag or container to store masks before they are worn and when swapped over.



Mask Hygiene

Don't touch the face of the mask, wash hands before removing the mask, wash hands after removing the mask. See <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/do-i-have-wear-face-mask-handout-covid-19-doc> for more information. We will also have posters up around the College with Do's and Don'ts of mask hygiene.

Information on Mask Making and Care

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-11/how-to-make-a-mask-coronavirus-covid19-australia/12444996>

<https://www.birchcreative.com.au/inspire-and-create/make-your-own-face-mask/>

In Other News...

Senior Secondary Remote Wednesdays

Most senior classes will operate in remote mode on Wednesdays to reduce the physical contact between students. Wednesday is normally a sport day and most student already go home in the second half of the day. Some lessons or SACs may be required on Wednesdays. Teachers will inform their classes if it will be necessary for these students to be onsite.

The Next Stage toward Recovery

It is important to remember that we are in the process of reducing the transmission of the virus. It appears we have stopped the exponential growth of virus spread and now masks will help us reduce that transmission further and not overwhelm our medical facilities. Take care not to let frustration dictate our actions.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God goes with you ... Joshua 1:9

Yours in Christ's service,

John Metcalfe
Principal