



# COVID 19 Information for Parents

## Communication #12

### July 11 2021

Throughout Semester 2, St Fidelis Primary School will continue to apply COVIDSafe principles in accordance with government guidance and regulations to promote a safe school environment.

A combination of strategies is required to minimise transmission risk. No single strategy completely reduces risk and not every measure will be possible in all educational settings. The strategies adopted by our school are adjusted over time in line with the changing risk of transmission in the community and implemented through our school's Covid Safe Plan.

## St Fidelis PS COVID-19 updates

### Student attendance at school

Students are required to attend on-site at all Catholic schools.

### Student absence due to border restrictions

Students who are required to isolate or undertake home-based quarantine will be provided with materials to continue their learning remotely; until such time that they are permitted to return to school.

### Face masks:

- Staff and students across Victoria do not need to wear facemasks indoors at school.
- School staff should wear a facemask indoors when interacting with external visitors, including parents/carers and staff/students from other schools.
- Masks will continue to be required for parents & visitors whilst in public-facing settings unless an exemption applies e.g. School reception
- Masks will still be required in roles where a person interacts with the general public e.g. School reception

### School Capacity Restrictions-venue maximum:

- Density limits of 1 person per 2 square metres applies in areas only accessed by staff (i.e. staff rooms, lunchrooms).
- Density limits of 1 person per 2 square metres apply in areas generally accessed by the public, such as school reception.
- Parent helpers can continue in the classroom, however, density limits of 1 person per 2 square metres must apply within the classroom setting.

### Assemblies and large gatherings

- Year level or whole school assemblies are permitted when attended only by staff and students from a single school
- St Fidelis Whole School **indoor** Assemblies cannot include parents or visitors at this time due to density limit restrictions.

### Excursions and incursions are permitted throughout Victoria.

There is no group size limit (but students should be in their class group) and excursions must be conducted in line with any specific capacity limits on venues that are being used. In most cases, density limits can be removed when a venue is being accessed by staff and students from a single school only.

### **Indoor and Outdoor Interschool Sport**

- Indoor and outdoor interschool sport can proceed throughout Victoria, and outdoor and indoor contact and non-contact physical activity is permitted.

### **School Tours**

- School tours for prospective students and their families can resume in Term 3. Groups should not exceed current public gathering limits. Density limits must be applied to any spaces accessed and record keeping obligations must be adhered to by any visitors attending the school for the purpose of a school tour.

### **Non-essential Visitors**

- Non-essential visitors can attend school sites however, density limits must be applied to any spaces accessed and record keeping obligations must be adhered to by any visitors attending the school site.

### **QR code requirements in schools**

- The use of Service Victoria QR codes for electronic record keeping is mandatory for all schools to enable the effective contact tracing of any COVID-19 cases.
- The public health intent of including schools in the QR code check-in system for workplaces is to capture those visitors accessing school buildings or indoor facilities, but not those entering the school grounds for reasons such as school pick-up.

### **QR codes will be required to be used by:**

- all visitors, including contractors, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and other external staff, and building and maintenance staff
- all parents who enter buildings when on the school site.

### **QR code check-ins will not be required for staff or students, or parents who come onto school grounds for drop-off or pick-up, but do not enter buildings.**

**Parents will not be permitted to enter buildings for the purpose of pick-up and drop-off of students.** For other reasons, parents and visitors are advised to enter the school building via the office administration area in Saunders Street. The main doors to this area are locked, however, access can be obtained by ringing the doorbell. The density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres applies in this area (Max. 4 people in reception area).

**St Fidelis PS has in place existing sign-in and sign-out processes. These will continue to be used to record visitor attendance, in particular the purpose of visits, for legal and regulatory obligations.**

### **New guidance on the use of PPE and the management of unwell students**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, MACS has worked closely with infection control experts at the Department of Health to review and update advice to schools on managing students with COVID-19 symptoms and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Based on the latest infection control advice, and following consultation, two new documents are now available, replacing previous PPE guidance and advice in the School Operations Guide:**

- Management of students displaying COVID-19 symptoms in education settings
- Personal protective equipment guide for education settings.

Kind regards,

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