



9 July, 2021

Dear school communities,

I am writing to provide an update on the current arrangements in relation to COVID-19. As we have seen, this is an unfolding situation and any changes will be communicated as soon as they are available. We have always been, and will continue to be guided by the NSW Health advice.

Current advice

An update on the current restrictions for regional NSW and advice from the NSW Government can be found [here](#).

Operational guidelines

NSW Health has developed a framework to determine the level of school response in the event of a COVID outbreak. NSW Health will assign each school a risk level from 1 to 4. Level 1 involves students learning at school in a COVID safe environment, and level 4 involves remote learning. CSNSW has advised that all schools in regional NSW are currently assigned a level 2 rating.

CSNSW has issued operational guidelines for the start of Term 3 for schools rated as level 2. Full guidelines can be found [here](#), and details of the level 2 restrictions can be found [here](#). All schools, regardless of their rating must continue to be vigilant in relation to physical distancing and hygiene practices.

QR codes

From 12 July 2021, it is mandatory for all staff, visitors and contractors to check in to the school site using the QR code each day. **When scanning in, staff are required to use the 'COVID safe check in' option on the Services NSW app and not the 'school check-in' option.** Schools are unable to access data from the QR code, therefore if your school has a school-based signing in requirement—through Passtab for example—then *you are required to continue to undertake this process in addition to the QR code check in.* This is to ensure that all staff are accounted for in the event of an emergency.

Masks

It is recommended that staff in all schools and students in secondary wear masks whilst at school. This is currently not a mandatory requirement.

Visitors

No non-essential visitors are permitted in schools.

Parents should:

- maintain physical distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates
- remain outside of school grounds; please note that some exceptions may apply regarding vulnerable students or students with disability
- follow mask-wearing requirements and sign in using the Service NSW QR code when entering the school for an approved purpose.

Diocesan staff can continue to visit schools as required. Allied Health partners are permitted on site if they are unable to deliver critical services remotely.

Returning from school holidays

Any staff member or student who travelled during the recent holiday period should ensure that they are aware of any NSW Health requirements when returning home. There is a current stay at home order for anyone that has been in the Greater Sydney area in the last 14 days; however, accessing work or education is listed as a reasonable excuse to leave home.

School activities

The following school activities are currently not permitted:

- camps and out of area field trips
- overnight stays
- student visits to aged care facilities
- community events in school hours.

We have not been advised how long these current guidelines will remain in place. Updates will be provided as they become available. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your principal.

Kind regards,



Gary Burdett
Deputy Director of Schools



Kate Kenny
Head of Employee Services