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Sunday 11 July 2021

**RE: Letter to the School Community about the easing of restrictions**

Dear parents and carers,

The Victorian Government has announced new arrangements for schools in Victoria from and including Friday 9 July.

On the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne were brought into alignment with regional Victoria from 11.59pm Thursday 8 July 2021, which means the same COVIDSafe settings apply state-wide. These settings will remain in place for at least two weeks.

**Key health messages**

**Face masks**

- School staff (primary and secondary) and secondary school students aged 12 or older:
  - are not required to wear a face mask while at school (or when attending an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program), when interacting exclusively with staff and students from their school
  - must carry a face mask at all times, unless a lawful exception applies
  - should wear a face mask indoors at school when interacting with external visitors, including parents/carers and staff/students from other schools.
- Children under 12 years of age and students at primary school are not required to wear face masks when at school, or when attending an OSHC program.
- Face masks are mandatory for all school staff and school students aged 12 or older on public transport and when in taxis or ride share vehicles. This includes travelling to and from school on public transport or in a vehicle with others not from your household.
- School staff and students must also abide by face mask requirements when attending public venues.

Parents, carers, and visitors must observe indoor face mask requirements. Face masks continue to be recommended outdoors when 1.5m physical distancing cannot be maintained.

**QR code use on school transport**

- Students should, where practical, check-in via a QR code service when travelling to and from school on public transport.

- Students are not required to check-in via a QR code service when travelling on private school buses or disability transport services, however bus services will be keeping records of students and staff accessing these services should this information be required for contact tracing.

### Travel advice

Travel restrictions between states and territories and in some remote areas of Australia are currently in place. These restrictions are implemented by individual state and territory governments and are subject to change at very short notice.

Currently, Victoria has listed a number of states and territories as orange and red zones, meaning any Victorians returning from:

- **orange zones** must obtain an orange zone permit to enter Victoria, isolate on arrival, get tested within 72 hours, and stay isolated until they get a negative result
- **red zones** must obtain a red zone permit to enter Victoria, travel directly home upon arrival, get tested at the required time points (within 72 hours of arrival and on or about day 13 post arrival) and quarantine for 14 days.

There are currently no restrictions on travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

### Student absence due to border restrictions

We acknowledge that due to the current situation nationally, some students may be returning from a designated **orange or red zone** and be required to undertake home-based quarantine on return. In such instances, these students will be provided with learning materials until they are able to return to school.

The Department of Health has sent a text message to Victorians who have recently returned from red zones to contact the DET COVID-19 Hotline if they have school aged children at home. **If your family is in this situation, please contact the COVID-19 Hotline on 1800 338 663 or the school as soon as possible to advise if your child or children will be absent due to border restrictions or quarantine requirements.**

A reminder that parents, carers, and visitors must continue to adhere to density limits, follow face mask advice and check in using the QR codes when entering school grounds.

I hope everyone had a safe and happy school holidays and we look forward to welcoming you all back for Term 3.

Kind Regards,



John Mitsinikos

College Principal