



Emmanuel Catholic College

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30 April 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

My apologies in not being able to get the following information to you sooner in relation to how new COVID-19 guidelines will impact College operations moving forward and for disturbing your weekend. Effective from Monday the following guidelines apply.

- The **Mask Mandate** has now been formally lifted; however, the Minister for Education emphasises the importance of wearing masks where physical distancing is not possible.
- **Persons aged 12 and above** are required to wear a mask at the following locations:
 - Hospitals, aged care/disability care facilities (not including special education units).
 - Airports and public transport.
 - Shared transport (such as when transporting students/ staff). This will include staff and students travelling on our own buses to and from all events.
 - Staff and students should be encouraged to continue wearing their masks, particularly those who may be immunocompromised.
 - Staff and students (aged 12 and above) who are close family contacts **MUST** wear their mask for 7 days whenever they leave their home, including while at school.

***In relation the statement '12 and above,' this extends to all students at Emmanuel from Year 7 upwards.**

- A **Close Contact** is now defined as:
 - A household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period.
 - Someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period where:
 - They have spent greater than 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in any 24 hour period in a residential setting (home/ accommodation setting).
 - Where masks have been removed by both people during the period of contact.
 - Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.
- **Close Contacts are NOT** required to isolate unless symptomatic.
- **Asymptomatic Close Contacts MUST:**
 - Undertake a daily RAT.
 - Wear a mask as above.
 - Avoid non-essential gatherings and contact with people at risk of severe illness.
 - Avoid high-risk settings such as hospitals and healthcare settings.
 - Should notify their school of their close contact status through the College Self Report Form.

- **Symptomatic Close Contacts:**
 - MUST isolate until symptoms resolve and undertake COVID-19 testing.
 - If a positive result is returned, reporting and isolation protocols are unchanged and continue to apply.
- **Ventilation** advice remains unchanged across College Facilities.
- **Assemblies; Year Level and Whole School:**
 - May proceed without restriction.
- **Camps:**
 - May proceed with testing protocols and venue compliance required. RAT testing will be required for students and staff prior to event attendance.
 - Masks no longer required apart from transport.
 - Parental consent in line with all previous guidelines.
 - Parental consent for student to self-administer RAT or staff to administer RAT.
 - Parental agreement to pick up students should they become unwell or test positive.
 - Acknowledgement such events may not proceed or be cancelled with minimal notice depending on staffing arrangements.
- **Excursions:**
 - Similar to Camps without RAT testing required before event attendance.
- **Cohorting of Students:**
 - All restrictions lifted.
 - Mixed year group activities can take place for all indoor and outdoor events.
- **School Sports Programs:**
 - May proceed without restriction.
 - Spectators welcome.
- **Interschool Sport:**
 - May proceed on school campuses, professional venues and community grounds without restriction.
 - Spectators welcome.
- **Music Programs:**
 - May proceed without restriction.
- **Parent/ Teacher Conferences:**
 - Maybe proceed
 - Masks preferred where physical distancing is not possible.
- **Special Events:**
 - May proceed.
 - No restrictions or limits if held on site.
 - Offsite events may proceed in line with venue requirements.
- **Student Work Placement:**
 - May continue as per workplace / industry requirements

- **Changeroom and Uniform requirements:**

- For the time being current arrangements will remain in place.
- All presentation standards to be maintained at all times.
- Where classes are held that usually require students to change, they may present and remain in the required uniform for the duration of the day.
- To be re-assessed for Term 3.

Please note all guidelines are subject to further change at the direction of the WA Chief Health Officer. Previously cancelled events are unlikely to be reinstated. In the coming weeks the College will assess the timing and viability of all future calendared events and specific information will be forthcoming in relation to the individual event should it be able proceed with adequate planning time.

Please continue to meet the current guidelines in relation to self-reporting through both the College form and to Health WA. Enhanced hygiene practices remain a necessity and it is important we all acknowledge we have a personal responsibility to protect our own health and those of others around us.

Once again, I thank you for your support of the College during this very challenging time. I look forward to returning to some degree of normalcy for the term ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Watson', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mr Paul Watson
Principal