

***Learning Guidelines of schools - as at 17 August 2020 for implementation by 19 August 2020***

---

**COVID-19 Safety Plans**

- Schools as Community Centres must have a COVID-19 Safety plan.
- Trade training centres require a COVID-19 safety plan (St Joseph's College Banora Point, St John's College Woodlawn, St Mary's Catholic College Casino, St Paul's College Kempsey and Newman Senior Technical College Port Macquarie).  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe-businesses>
- VET work placements can continue when the host employer has a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.
- Dance activities require a risk assessment and COVID-19 safety plan.

**Visitors and Community Groups**

- All community user groups must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and have submitted a signed Community Use Acknowledgement form.
- Only external providers essential to the delivery of curriculum and allied health professionals may continue to attend the school and have submitted a signed External Visitors Form.
- School or community run playgroups are to cease.

**Health & Hygiene**

- Practice vigilance in ensuring that staff and students do not attend school if unwell.
- High touch items, such as gym equipment, TAS/VET tools, art supplies and musical instruments are to be cleaned between use.

**Student Groups/Cohorts/Activities/Sports**

- Activities such as choirs, chanting and the use of woodwind instruments in groups are not permitted.
- Students are to stay within their relevant cohort, year group or stage for all learning activities.
- School-related social activities are not permitted. (eg. school formals, dinners or dances; or parent engagement functions).
- School-related overnight events are not permitted (eg. retreats, camps, excursions) as there is increased risk of transmission of the virus in a residential type setting with shared facilities.
- Limit activities of local school students and staff mixing.
- Local field trips are allowable in outdoor locations only.
- Schools can continue to use local external sporting grounds, swimming pools, recreational facilities and community facilities where schools have exclusive use of the facilities or a designated area. Contact with the general public or their schools should be avoided. Schools will need to negotiate with these venues regarding any external venue

restrictions including for example, there may be a maximum number of people permitted to use a facility or join a class.

### **Interschool Activities**

- Activities that result in the mixing of students from schools in different regions, such as sporting-related activities, drama and debating.
- Schools must not travel outside of their local community area or zone for any interschool activities.
- Local Interschool sport: the number of participants involved in interschool sport and physical activity is limited to 100 people (including staff), per venue (schools must be located in the same local region). Parent attendance is not permitted.

### **Year 12 Graduation and Social Activities**

- School social activities including formals, dances and traditional graduations are not permitted.
- A Year 12 assembly can occur to recognise completion of school. No parents or community members are permitted to attend. Graduation assemblies should be limited to students from the relevant cohort group (i.e. class, year group, or stage).
- Refreshments may be provided for the year 12 students and relevant staff if students and staff bring their own food or single portion packaged food is provided. Disposable plates and cutlery are to be used.
- Alternatively, schools may consider delaying events until later in the year. Further advice will be issued when restrictions are relaxed.
- Year 12 Graduation Assembly is not time limited (all other assemblies are still limited to 15 minutes).

### **Parent Functions/Events**

- P&F social events or functions are no longer permitted.
- School related social events involving parents or other community members, for example P&C functions or involving mixing of schools and multiple year groups, are not permitted.
- Schools should not promote, sponsor or sanction social activities and parents/P&Cs should be advised of the schools position based on NSW Health advice.

### **Professional Learning**

- Face to face, professional learning that requires staff from different schools to mix should not occur.

### **Close contacts of a confirmed case**

- Staff or students identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case are advised by the Public Health Unit to self-isolate for 14 days from the last possible day of contact with the confirmed case.
- The Public Health Unit will confirm who is a close contact.
- If they are a close contact of someone infected with COVID-19, they should get tested as soon as possible, regardless of symptoms.
- If they test negative, they still need to remain in isolation until the 14-day isolation period finishes.
- If a staff member or student lives in the same household, or are identified as a close social contact, of the infected person, they should be tested again on day 10-12 of the isolation period. They should continue to self-isolate until they have completed their 14-day isolation period and have received a negative test result.
- If a staff member or student does not live in the same household as the person infected with COVID-19, and have not been otherwise identified as a close contact at high risk of

transmission, they do not need to be re-tested before finishing their 14-day isolation period unless they develop symptoms.

Further details are found here;

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-contacts.aspx>

We are seeking clarification on the following items and will provide you with these as soon as the information is available:

- School Masses and liturgies.
- Staff and students exhibiting even mild symptoms should stay at home and be tested.
- Staff and students should not return to school until they have received a negative test.
- Catholic Schools NSW is seeking clarification on what constitutes travel outside of a school's local community area or zone for interschool activities.