

Mildura Specialist School

9/10/2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

With the recent announcement of a return to lockdown for a week, we revert to the directions for Melbourne and Restricted areas.

Onsite Learning

For schools this means the only scheduled students are year 12 VCAL students for this week. If your child is already attending under the criteria below, we will anticipate their return.

- All schools in metropolitan Melbourne and restricted areas will continue to provide remote and flexible learning for year levels not scheduled for onsite learning, except for students in the following categories who are eligible for onsite supervision and care:

1. Children where both parents/carers are considered authorised workers who cannot work from home, work for an authorised provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made:

2. Where there are two parents/carers, both must be authorised workers working outside the home for their children to be eligible for onsite provision at school.

3. For single parents/carers, the authorised worker must be working outside the home for their children to be eligible for onsite provision at school.

4. Children experiencing vulnerability, including:

- a. in out-of-home care

- b. deemed vulnerable by a government agency, funded family or family violence service, and assessed as requiring education and care outside the family home

- c. identified by a school or early childhood service as vulnerable, (including via referral from a government agency, or funded family or family violence service, homeless or youth justice service or mental health or other health service)

- d. Where a parent/carer indicates that a student with a disability is vulnerable because they cannot learn from home, and/or informs the school the student is vulnerable due to family stress, the school must provide onsite supervision for that student. This may apply to students enrolled in specialist schools and mainstream schools.

Masks

For all school settings, the Victorian Chief Health Officer has directed the wearing of masks for staff and secondary aged students. This is going to become a requirement for years 3-6 and encouraged for P-2.

There are a number of lawful reasons for not wearing a face mask, including for staff and students who are unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability, medical or a mental health condition.

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks-when-wear-face-mask#exceptions-for-not-wearing-a-face-mask>

From the link above for your information:

Persons who have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable, including persons with obstructed breathing, a serious skin condition of the face, an intellectual disability, a mental health condition or persons who have experienced trauma.

Hopefully we will be out of lockdown in a week. We will continue to provide updates as they come in. Thank you for your support during this time. Teachers will be in contact early next week about work packs for students working from home. Please be reassured that we are taking steps at school to maintain a safe environment with ventilation, use of outdoor spaces, cleaning and social distancing.

If you have any questions, please email me or the school account.

Kind regards

Penny Hale

Principal