



# Sydenham-Hillside Primary School

**Learning, Responsibility, Respect, Safety.**

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3 August 2020

Dear parents, carers, students and staff

Yesterday, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, regional and rural Victoria will move to Stage 3 restrictions and metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across the government, Catholic and independent sectors and across all metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from Wednesday 5 August, following a student free day on Tuesday 4 August, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3.

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state.

There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community.

A summary of what the changes mean for schools is below.

## **METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE**

### **PREP TO YEAR 10**

- Prep to Year 10 students will continue with remote and flexible learning.
- The criteria for students that can attend on-site has changed as follows:
  - children whose parents are **permitted** workers. The Victorian Government will provide further advice about this over the coming days
  - vulnerable children in out of home care, children known to child protection and other agencies and children the school identifies as vulnerable
  - children with a disability who **also** fit one of the above two categories.

## **PROCESS FOR ON-SITE SUPERVISION**

- Parents will be required to complete a Department of Education on-site supervision request form each week. These will be distributed using Flexibuzz. If you do not have Flexibuzz please download the app as soon as possible.
- The on-site supervision request form will be updated by the Department of Education to reflect changes to the criteria for students eligible for on-site learning.

## **TIMELINE**

- Monday 3 August will be a 'normal' day of school under current arrangements, with students attending on site learning asked to take all their necessary learning materials home.
- Tuesday 4 August will be a student-free day across Victoria (for all students) to enable teachers, especially in rural and regional Victoria, to prepare for flexible and remote learning. Big Childcare will not be running at either campus on this day.
- Wednesday 5 August will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria

## STAFFING

- Schools will ensure sufficient staff are available for necessary on site supervision.
- Staff not required for on-site supervision will work from home.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kind Regards

Ben Russell