

19 August 2020

Dear parents

You may be aware that the Department of Education has recently released an update to their guidelines for NSW school students in Term 3. The goal of this advice is to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission within NSW schools. Whilst many of the recommended practices have already been implemented at Covenant (see [Junior](#) and [Secondary](#) letters from Friday 14 August), there are a number of changes we will be implementing from Wednesday 19 August. Below is a summary of the recommendations (many of which are already part of our current practice).

### Visitors

- Only essential visitors are permitted on-site and all visitors (including parents) **must** sign-in and out at the Office. All visitors must enter the grounds via the Dell Street entrance.
- All visitors must be aware of and maintain the appropriate physical distancing, health and hygiene measures.
- Essential visitors include:
  - Volunteers for Canteen and Uniform Shop
  - Parents visiting the Uniform Shop
  - Parents who have a pre-arranged meeting with a member of staff
  - Parents collecting a child from sick bay
  - Prep parents who are dropping off/picking up Prep students. Prep parents will sign in and out at the Prep verandah.
- All personal and group tours have been postponed until further notice.

### Safety and Hygiene

- Physical distancing is not required for students. However, all students must maintain good hygiene practices, including careful, regular hand washing, and avoid the sharing of food and personal items. Students must bring a water bottle from home for personal use.
- Students should not attend school if they are unwell. This includes even minor flu-like symptoms. Students who are absent or sent home due to flu-like symptoms need to be tested. Please advise the school if your child is being tested. They must remain at home until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free.
- We have been advised, where possible, to have students stay within their year group or stage for all learning activities. We will be implementing some changes in the coming days in line with this recommendation. This advice does not apply to non-learning activities.
- Adults (teachers, support staff, visitors) must stay 1.5 metres physically distanced from one another. Parents who are dropping off or collecting children are reminded to maintain 1.5 metres apart at all times.

### Cleaning

- Our daily enhanced cleaning practices are already in line with the new recommendations from the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. These include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces.

## Large events

- Regularly scheduled Term 3 events have been postponed at this time and will be reconsidered for Term 4.
- We recognise that this year has been an incredibly difficult and disruptive year for our Year 12 students. Our thoughts and prayers go to them and their families at this difficult time. We are currently reviewing our plan for [Year 12 celebrations](#), and we are thankful that our current planning, as communicated to students and their families, are still in line with the new recommendations. We pray that these events for our Year 12 students are a wonderful time of celebration and reflection of God's faithfulness.
- School excursions, camps and larger community events remain on hold for the remainder of Term 3.

## Sport

- Sports can continue within the school sport program for Primary and Secondary School.
- Interschool activities may continue, however, they must remain within our local community.
- Our school can continue to use local external sporting grounds and facilities for school sport.
- Transportation to and from sporting activities will continue. Students will continue to be asked to sanitise before and after travelling on a bus.
- Shared sporting equipment remains permitted. Safe health practice guidelines will be adhered to.
- On sport days, students should come to school wearing their sport uniform.

## Bands, Choirs and Singing

- For the remainder of Term 3, all group singing, and the use of woodwind instruments in a group setting, are not permitted.
- Physical distancing measures for students playing in bands and orchestras will be maintained.
- Stage 6 students can continue to sing solo or as a duet with a minimum distance of 3m from other performers and all other persons in the room.

## Monitoring COVID-19 case locations in NSW

We want to encourage our community to monitor [this site](#) and follow the relevant health advice if you have been at any of the locations at the specified dates and times.

We are thankful for your partnership during this difficult time. Whilst we miss having our parent community on-site, we recognise that these guidelines are an important way that we can love our neighbour. Please join me in giving thanks to God for the way he has continued to protect our students, staff and community here at Covenant during this season of COVID-19.

Blessings to you and your family



Melissa Brown  
Principal