

CATHOLIC EDUCATION ARCHDIOESE OF CANBERRA & GOULBURN RESTRICTIONS FOR NSW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

8 March 2021

as advised by NSW Health

Area	Detail	Comment
COVID-19 Testing and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff with flu-like symptoms (including mild symptoms) must not attend school or be sent home and tested for COVID-19. Parents of students displaying any flu like symptoms should provide evidence of a negative result prior to returning to school. Where COVID-19 testing has occurred due to flu-like symptoms, and not due to close contact with a positive COVID-19 case, the person being tested must self-isolate until they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they are required to self-isolate for 14 days. Family members are not required to self-isolate until the test result is received - although we encourage them to do so. The school must sight a negative test result before staff/students return to school. Staff/students must be symptom-free before returning to school. Schools must keep a record of negative staff/student's tests in a central file. Staff and parents should regularly review the latest COVID-19 locations (NSW and interstate) to ensure any impact this has on staff/students at the School. This should include particular attention where a new hotspot has been identified and particularly as at the commencement of Term One. Non-essential adults continue to not be allowed on School Grounds or to attend School Events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to existing practices
Assemblies/School events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole of school assemblies can be conducted but should be limited, where possible, to 1 hour Parents/carers may be invited and must comply with COVID requirements Where possible, students should remain within their relevant cohort to limit the mixing of students between cohort groups. Parents and carers are not permitted to attend school assemblies. School performances, productions, plays and concerts and award presentations can proceed subject to COVID requirements. When conducting such events, schools must comply with the 2 square metre rule for all people participating, not including students when on a school site . Schools will need to invite guests based on the total number of people who are able to be accommodated under the 2 square metre rule, not including students (noting the available space must take into account the space occupied by students as this is not able to be used by other persons attending). Schools may organise outdoor events involving community participation (i.e. parents) which are limited to 100 people outdoorss such as barbeques and picnics with a class. A COVID-19 Plan must be prepared. Schools may conduct events for staff and students such as at a park in accordance with COVID requirements and numbers must not exceed 100 people at these events. Events must be limited to staff from within the local school network and must be held outside of school hours. Schools are to conduct planning and response activities to COVID-19 to ensure staff, students and the community are aware of appropriate actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies should be limited to 1 hour Parents/carers may now attend assemblies but must meet social distancing requirements The limit of persons for school performances etc. is determined by the venue capacity subject to the 2 sqm rule, noting students exemption at school 100 person limit for community events continues (does not include school performances etc.)

Education Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise mixing of student cohort groups. • Visitors including parents/carers are now welcome in the school and can drop off and collect students, subject to maintaining social distancing requirements • Communal water fountains and/or bubblers can be used. Schools should continue to encourage students to bring water bottles from home that they can refill when needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors including parents/carers are now welcome in the school, subject to maintaining social distancing requirements
Planning for Continuity of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools should review their plans to support the ongoing delivery of education for students in the event there is a period of time students and staff are unable to attend school. This situation may arise during the year due to a large number of students or staff being required to remain in self-isolation for a period of approximately 14 days or a period where the school is directed under public health advice to only remain operational for children of essential workers if an outbreak of COVID-19 were to arise in the local area. • Schools should review and ensure they have plans in place for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the recommencement of remote learning and working arrangements at short notice; ○ provision of learning resources and relevant technology to support educational delivery to minimise disruption to student learning. This includes the use of Microsoft Teams, as appropriate; ○ communication systems to remain connected to students, staff and parents and carers; and ○ student welfare and learning support services. • Schools will be advised if they are required to transition to remote learning and provided with appropriate support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
Excursions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day time excursions are permitted including a picnic to a local park or a recreational area. • Schools can conduct field trips, excursions and overnight activities within NSW and in the ACT and participation in the Duke of Edinburgh, not including, visits to remote communities. This is subject to the preparation of appropriate risk assessments and it is recognized due to the nature of COVID-19 excursions may be required to be postponed or cancelled at short notice should there be an outbreak in the area being visited. • Schools hosting an overnight event such as a camp on the school site must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. • Schools must adhere to the specific COVID-19 rules within the state/territory they are travelling and must only conduct the excursion if it is safe to do so at the time given the current COVID-19 status in the area being travelled to. • All excursions (day or overnight and not including day to day school activities) must have a COVID-Safe plan. • Where excursions are conducted the mixing of any other school group or members of the public should be minimized. • No overseas excursions permitted. • Students can attend aged care facilities for school activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can now attend aged care facilities for school activities
School Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School swimming carnivals are permitted. Students should stay within their cohort group (class, year group, or stage) during the carnival to limit close contacts. All teachers, support staff and other adults and students are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil

Carnivals	<p>expected to maintain physical distance from each other where possible (1.5 metres).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pool operators should close the pool and spectator area to the general public while a school carnival is taking place unless there is clear delineation across separate areas of the facility. The number of parents attending should be determined by considering the capacity of the venue. As a general rule, venues should aim for 25% of indoor seated capacity or 50% of outdoor seated capacity in spectator areas. Except for physical distancing for students and record keeping, pool operators should comply with the COVID-19 Safety Plan requirements for swimming pools. 	
School, Inter-School and Sporting Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interschool sporting activities are permitted outside local areas and communities. Schools must have a COVID-Safe Plan to conduct such activities and parents or spectators are permitted when conducted on school premises. If conducted on external premises spectators may be permitted subject to the venues COVID Safety Plan and its capacity. Note parents and students mixing at external venues are required to comply with the venues requirements. Zone carnivals (swimming, cross country, athletics), round robins and gala days involving more than one school and selection trials for representative pathway events can be conducted. External providers can deliver sport and physical activity programs provided they have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers are now permitted as spectators for School sporting activities at schools and must comply with social distancing requirements
P&F Groups/ Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&F/Community Council meetings may occur on the school site with the Leadership Team and invited guests with a COVID Safety Plan. These meetings must occur outside of school hours. Physical distancing and hygiene measures must be adhered to at all times. All attendees must sign the visitor acknowledgement form. School Community Council or other community social events or functions, fetes and barbecues are permitted. Gatherings of parents and/or community members for school events (such as working bees) must comply with the gathering limits prescribed by the Public Health Orders. Community use of facilities can be conducted subject to meeting COVID requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The limit to the number of persons attending these events is determined by the space and the requirement for each person to be able to socially distance
Playgroups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgroups can be conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
Staff Gatherings/ Professional Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional learning for staff can proceed following relevant guidelines and NSW Health requirements for COVID-safe professional learning activities. This can include staff from the same school and the local school network and there is a requirement for a COVID Safety Plan where there are more than 50 persons in attendance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No limit on persons attending Professional Development COVID Safety Plan required to be completed where exceeds 50 persons COVID Safety requirements must be met
Singing/ Instruments/ Dancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singing, changing and rapping is permitted for solo and small choir groups subject to certain restrictions in large well-ventilated settings. 5 metres social distancing required for solo singers. Instructors, teachers and adult support persons must position themselves 1.5m to the side of the singer, where practicable No limit on persons permitted to sing in choirs indoors, with 5 metres distance required for audiences. Choir members must not face each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No limit on numbers of choir members No requirements for choir members to stand 1.5 metres apart

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of wind instruments requires 3 metres social distancing. • Group repetition, chanting recitation: Pre and Primary Schools only, preferably outside. • There is no limit on the number of performers singing together outdoors. • Audience members may sing outdoors and should not sing indoors. • In primary schools in class education singing activities are permitted without limits provided this occur outdoors or in a large well ventilated classroom with windows and doors open where possible. 	
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors including parents/carers are welcome in our schools which includes canteen, reading groups, music, kitchen garden and uniform shop volunteers and must meet COVID-19 requirements • School-based activities that involve large gathering of adults not permitted (greater than 100 persons). These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school barbecues, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events. • All visitors must accept terms and conditions (social distancing, enhanced hygiene protocols etc.) prior to entering the school. • Practical teachers, work experience students and external providers of educational services are permitted to attend schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors including parents/carers are welcome in our schools
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should be either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at school; ○ at home because they are currently unwell; ○ at home due to self-isolation requirements; and ○ at home because they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition (or in limited cases where a family member has an ongoing medical condition). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
Face Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students are not required to wear masks while at school. Staff and students are permitted to wear their own mask if they choose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
COVID-19 Safety Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are required to be prepared for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excursions ○ Parent orientations and meet the teacher evenings ○ School Open Days ○ School Development Days and Professional Learning Activities (where more than 50 adults attending) ○ School Speech Nights and Award Presentations (where more than 50 adults attending) ○ School Productions and Musicals (where more than 50 adults attending) ○ School Council Meetings and community outdoor social events and functions (where more than 50 adults attending) ○ Gals Days and School Performances (where more than 50 adults attending) ○ Sporting events and activities not on the School site (where more than 50 adults attending) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID Safety Plans are required where there are more than 50 persons attending
Record Keeping/QR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are encouraged to register for a NSW QR Code noting that parents and other persons attending a School will still need to sign in and out as per normal processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil

Codes

- Record keeping and contact tracing requirements for schools participating in activities at swimming pools, museums, libraries and galleries, as well as entertainment facilities (such as theatre, cinemas, music hall, concert/dance hall, etc) has changed.
- An Exemption under NSW Public Health Orders means that schools are not required to provide the names and contact details of school children and teachers to these venues. Schools are required to provide the details of two contact people from the school and must retain in electronic format, a list of all students and staff participating in the event or activity for at least 28 days in accordance with contact tracing requirements. As the venue should be using a QR Code there should not be a requirement to do so.