

Prairiewood High School



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20 July 2020

ADVICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR TERM 3 2020

TUESDAY JULY 21 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We welcome all students back to school on Tuesday 21 July 2020 for the beginning of Term 3. We hope everyone had a good break and that everyone is safe.

The relevant government and health authorities continue to provide assurances that it is safe for students to attend school and that strict social distancing is not required for students. All students should attend school unless they are unwell. If any student shows any signs of being unwell we ask that you keep that student home until they are well again.

I want to reassure you that the safety of our community remains our priority, especially with the local COVID-19 cases now emerging in Stockland Wetherill Park. I have attached the link to the news and updates page from NSW Health: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>.

Important points to note relevant to COVID-19 testing:

- If a student gets tested for COVID-19, they must self-isolate/quarantine until their results come back as negative
- If anyone in a household tests positive for COVID-19, then everyone else in that household is a close contact and must quarantine for 14 days, even if their results come back as negative. Please see this link for more details on who is considered a close contact of a positive case and what quarantine means: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/quarantine-for-coronavirus-covid-19>

Important points to note relevant to the school holidays:

- The Public Health Alert that has been given by NSW Health is **directing everyone who attended the Thai Rock restaurant in Stockland Mall Wetherill Park on 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 July to immediately be tested and self-isolate for 14 days, regardless of symptoms**
- Any student who has visited Victoria in the 14 days before school starts, should NOT attend school until they complete 14 days of self-isolation since they left Victoria.

Important points to note regarding school routine that minimise the risk of COVID-19:

- **Enhanced Cleaning** – Additional cleaning of toilets, bubblers, and high touch areas will continue to occur as part of the Department of Education's commitment to ensure schools are safe to return.
- **Enhanced Hygiene Practices** - We have a number of hand sanitiser dispensers in hallways, and each classroom has a kit containing paper towel, cleaning spray and sanitiser. As has

been previously articulated to students, students are expected to wipe down the desk they are using each lesson and sanitise and wash their hands regularly.

- **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** – We encourage students to continue to bring their electronic device to school to support teaching and learning. Students bringing their own device will also reduce sharing of equipment. Technology and learning equipment is regularly cleaned.
- **Continuation of no formalised Roll Call** – To prevent minimisation of movement throughout the school and as an interim strategy of support, attendance rolls will continue to be formally marked during the period 1 lesson. A five-minute warning bell will still occur to ensure students are in class on time. We will continue to send daily SMS messages to parents if students are not present.
- **Visitation on Site** – The advice in this space remains unchanged. The current guidelines state: *“Non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events. This includes parents and carers except for face-to-face parent/teacher meetings that are essential (e.g. to discuss disciplinary or other welfare matters).”* As Parent Teacher night did not occur in its traditional form this year, parents are welcome to phone the office to make appointments with class teachers directly. Meetings with parents will only occur through appointment with relevant staff and if approved by the Principal. We respectfully request that adults adhere to social distancing guidelines, and sign the External Visitors to the School Site form at the office as they sign in. Parents and carers will be contacted if their child is unwell and they need to go home. On these occasions, please ring on arrival and we will sign out your child.
- **Scripture is now operational from week 3 of term as per Department of Education advice** – As you are aware, Scripture is an optional activity for students in NSW public schools. We will release through our social media channels later this term if/when this will begin.
- **Sport & Physical Activity considerations** – Sport will return to normal. Students will now be permitted to play soccer, touch football or basketball during recess and lunch. Students should continue to wear their Sports Uniform on sport days and when they have PE lessons.
- **TAFE will return to face-to-face** teaching for any TVET students and VET workplacements will proceed if placements are available.
- **Parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events is still not permitted.** Current Department of Education advice is that Year 12 graduation and other events may be streamed if possible. This is still under consideration and will be updated as information is made available to us. Schools are being advised to consider Graduation after HSC exams this year.

Thank you for the way you have responded to the challenges of COVID-19 and for supporting the staff at PHS as we do our best to support our students.

Finally, I have attached the Department of Education support material, [‘A guide to NSW school students returning for Term 3’](#). This guide provides additional information on how NSW public schools will operate during Term 3.

We look forward to welcoming our students back for Term 3 especially Year 12, who are in the home stretch of their formal schooling. Please continue to check the school website, our Facebook page and SkoolBag for regular updates. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school regarding these return to school arrangements if you are unsure.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Belinda Giudice
Principal