



18 August 2020

## COVID-19 Update - Increased Restrictions for NSW Schools

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust this letter finds you well. Some of you may have seen the announcement from the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejikilian yesterday, outlining an extensive list of increased restrictions for government schools for the remainder of Term 3. The Association of Independent Schools has advised that all independent schools are to follow the Premier's recommendations in full. As such there are a few changes that I need to make you aware of. Whilst most restrictions fall into our current COVID-19 procedures, there are some new restrictions that will require school and home to work together to ensure we are adhering to the strict NSW Government guidelines to be adopted by all NSW schools.

From Wednesday, August 19 Parkes Christian School is required to ensure that:

- anyone absent with flu-like symptoms must not return to school without a negative COVID-19 test;
- the school has sighted the negative COVID-19 test result prior to allowing students to return to school;
- students must not return to school until they are symptoms free;
- students do not attend school if they are unwell.

Students **must** attend school unless:

- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition and the expected timeframe;
- they are currently unwell.

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. Schools will make arrangements for students who present as unwell or have flu-like symptoms to be sent home. Students with flu-like symptoms will need to provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result before being permitted to return to school.

**COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough, sore/scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell.**

In addition to these increased measures, PCS is required to:

- encourage students to not use bubblers, rather to fill water bottles from bubblers or taps;
- restrict parent involvement on school grounds or at school events during school hours (this includes, parent classroom helpers and attending sporting carnivals).

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I know that these latest measures regarding the need for a negative COVID-19 test are a step up in severity. Please know that it is not our intention to place families under any undue pressure, however we must operate within the guidelines provided to us. I look forward to the easing of restrictions down the track, hopefully in Term 4. Until then, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to make contact with me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Westcott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Glen Westcott  
Principal