

PO Box 171, Maryborough VIC 3465 (102-192 Balaclava Road)

Telephone: 03 5461 7900

Email: maryborough.ec@education.vic.gov.au

www.mec.vic.edu.au

2nd September 2021

Dear parents

Due to the ongoing level of community transmission of COVID-19, the Victorian Government has announced the current restrictions in place across Victoria will be extended. This means remote and flexible learning will continue in all Victorian schools until the end of Term 3. Any update or change to this will be communicated through the return to onsite learning plan that will be released next week.

This means remote and flexible learning will continue in all Victorian schools until the end of Term 3. There are no changes to the current operational settings in schools or the categories of students who can attend on-site.

On site supervision

Current arrangements will continue. An authorised worker permit will be required for authorised workers to attend a workplace, and parents and carers can only request on-site supervision at school for their child/ren in the below categories.

Category A

Children where both parents and or carers are considered authorised workers who cannot work from home, work for an authorised provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made.

Where there are two parents/carers, both must be authorised workers, working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision at school.

For single parents/carers, the authorised worker must be working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision at school.

Parents and carers who are authorised workers will need an authorised worker permit from their employers to access on-site supervision for their child/ren in Category A.

For those requesting on-site learning under Category A, a copy of your authorised worker permit or permits must be submitted to our school as soon as practicable after it is issued.

Category B

Children experiencing vulnerability, including:

- o in out-of-home care
- o deemed vulnerable by a government agency, funded family or family violence service, and assessed as requiring education and care outside the family home
- o identified by a school or early childhood service as vulnerable, (including via referral from a government agency, or funded family or family violence service, homeless or youth justice service or mental health or other health service)

o where a parent/carer indicates that a student with a disability is vulnerable because they cannot learn from home, and/or informs the school the student is vulnerable due to family stress, the school must provide on-site supervision for that student. This may apply to students enrolled in specialist schools and students with a disability enrolled in mainstream schools.

An authorised worker permit is not required for accessing on-site supervision under Category R

Vaccination blitz

To help support the safe conduct of end-of-year exams, the Victorian Government today announced a vaccination blitz for final year school students, their teachers and for VCE exam supervisors and assessors that support final year school students.

The blitz will begin on 7 September and continue until 17 September. During the blitz, final year students, their teachers and VCE exam supervisors and assessors will have access to priority timeslots to attend their vaccination appointment at a vaccination centre.

Final year students, their teachers and VCE exam supervisors and assessors will also be able to book their first and second doses via a dedicated appointment booking hotline.

These additional pathways will help support a faster booking process and minimise absence for students during their schooling hours.

The Department of Health will release details of the dedicated phone number and session information on Friday, September 3.

COVID-19 and Vaccination - Your questions answered webinar

The Victorian Department of Health is hosting a live webinar for final year high school students, their families and educators to provide information on COVID-19 vaccination. You can join the free webinar on Friday 3 September, 4.00-5.00pm via this <u>link</u> (no need to register).

Topics covered include:

- Vaccines, development and safety
- Accessing and consenting to a vaccination
- How to book an appointment
- Q+A with the panel.

This event will be held via Microsoft Teams Live. For access information, visit <u>Attend a live</u> event in Teams.

General Achievement Test (GAT) and VCE Examinations

The Victorian Government also announced that the following will be conducted with the health and safety controls in place -

- The General Achievement Test (GAT) has been rescheduled and will take place on Tuesday, 5 October 2021
- Final VCE examinations will take place on 4 October 17 November 2021

Further information on the GAT and VCE examinations will be provided directly by the VCAA.

I trust our school community will ensure we do the right thing at this time, by complying with the restrictions in place and making careful and supportive decisions that limit movement through the community.

Thank you again, for supporting your child's learning during this time.

Please contact me on 035461 7900 with any questions.

David

David Sutton

Principal