

Myrtleford P12 College

COVID-19 Policy 2023

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline to parents, carers and students how our school will be managing risk and other operational matters relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Myrtleford P12 College is committed to providing a safe learning and working environment for our students and staff. We ask for all members of the school community to follow this policy to enable us to provide the safest possible environment during this time. We all have a role to play in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Victoria.

Background

Myrtleford P12 College is following the advice from the Department of Education and Training which can be found on the Department's website at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Scope

This policy applies to everyone in the Myrtleford P12 College community. This includes all members of staff (principals, teachers and education support staff), all parents/carers who interact with the school and all students. It also includes visitors to the school. Information specific to staff only and not relevant to students and their families is not included in this policy.

Details

Information on changes to on-site learning will be provided to parents and families via the school newsletter, Compass and Skoolbag App.

Priorities

We will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. In addition to the health and safety measures outlined in this policy, we will be focused on three key priorities:

Mental health and wellbeing

Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising all available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

Learning and excellence

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some have fallen behind, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who need help to catch up and those who have continued to extend their learning.

Transitions

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from kindergarten into Prep, the Grade 6s moving into Year 7, the Year 12s moving into employment or further education and training.

Health and safety at school

Our school follows the Department and Victorian Chief Health Officer's advice and requirements in relation to health and safety. The health and safety measures relating to students are outlined below. These health and safety measures are regularly reviewed in line with the changing context of COVID-19 in Victoria. As a result, some measures may no longer be required and/or new measures may be introduced. This means:

A 'suspected' or 'symptomatic' case means a person who displays any COVID-19 symptoms.

Management Of Suspected case of COVID-19

A suspected case means a person who displays any COVID-19 symptoms who has not yet tested positive for COVID-19.

Students will be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible. Urgent medical attention will be sought where needed. Unwell students will not be permitted to travel home unsupervised.

The student/staff member is recommended to undergo testing for COVID-19.

Where staff or students are experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus, we will ensure hand hygiene, physical distancing and use of a face covering.

[Where students with complex health needs are being supported: In the context of schools supporting students with complex health needs, if the care of an unwell child or young person is to be prolonged (for example, because it will take some hours for a parent to collect a child) and maintaining distance is not practical when providing direct care, gloves, gown and eye protection will be considered.

If a student spreads droplets (for example by sneezing, coughing or vomiting), surfaces will be immediately cleaned with disinfectant.

Management of a Confirmed case of COVID-19

After doing the tests at home, if it is positive, the following steps should be taken:

- let the school know
- Complete the Student COVID-19 COVID Test Portal or notify the school by phone or written notification
- Students should be kept at home for a minimum of 5 days and not attend school until their symptoms have resolved

Face coverings

Guidance for the wearing of face mask at school (inclusive of staff, students, visitors and contractors) will be altered as per the guidelines issued by the Victorian Chief Health officer and the current *COVID-19 Advice for Victorian Government Schools*

- This will be communicated to the school community via Compass and/or Skoolbag as changes occur.

The Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Additionally, the Department of Health recommends that masks be worn by a person who has COVID-19 for at least 7 days after a positive test.

Physical distancing

- Wherever possible we will encourage and support physical distancing of students however the Department and Victorian Chief Health Officer has acknowledged that physical distancing in schools is practicably difficult to achieve and has not mandated this practice. Parents and visitors are asked to observe physical distancing requirements (1.5 metres).

Hand, food and drink hygiene

- Hand sanitiser will be available at entry points to classrooms and students will be educated on the importance of this health and safety measure
- All people on school grounds must undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet.
- Where shared equipment is necessary, students will be required to exercise strict hand hygiene before and after use.
- Students must not share their food.

Mobile phones

- The Department and school's mobile phone policies continue to apply and we ask that students and staff clean their phones regularly.

Attendance

In keeping with expert public health advice, some students may be at higher risk for severe outcomes or complications of coronavirus (COVID-19), for example those with chronic medical conditions. Any student with a chronic medical condition should seek advice from their medical practitioner about attending school on site at various stages in the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Please also contact Principal Zlatko Pear for further support and advice on how we can support your child in these circumstances.

Our school records student attendance in accordance with the Department's [Attendance Policy](#).

Canteen

Our school canteen will operate with the highest hygiene practices. The canteen will be open on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Any changes to the canteen operating times will be communicated to parents and families.

School buses for on-site students

The School Bus Program will continue to operate as normal.

Further information and resources

- [DHHS Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) website:](#)
 - <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>
- Department of Education and Training COVID-19 Advice Line – 1800 338 663
- Department of Health and Human Services Coronavirus hotline – 1800 675 398 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Review

This policy was last updated on 1st February 2023 and will be reviewed as the situation changes.