



FROM THE PRINCIPAL 2021 COVID-19 UPDATE #7

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT

It is timely that I write to you given the significant impact of the COVID-19 Delta variant in three Australian states at this time. It is not unrealistic to expect that Western Australia could be affected in the coming days or weeks and forced into sudden lockdown. I wish to assure you that the School is prepared should this scenario arise.

As you are aware, the School has adhered to all of the COVID-19 mandated requirements since the onset of the pandemic. Staff and students have been frequently briefed about these requirements; in particular, those pertaining to mask wearing, hand hygiene and related practices. A reminder has been given this week to maintain a vigilant approach to these matters. Whilst parents and carers are most welcome on campus, all visitors are required to use the QR Code or Contact Register prior to undertaking their business. I ask that you continue to do so for the safety of all.

Melbourne has shown us that the Delta variant is particularly virulent in a school setting and causes sudden closure. Should this occur at John Wollaston, parents and carers will be immediately contacted via text message to collect their children. Staff will supervise students until all have been collected. Staff and Secondary students who do not have a mask will be issued with one. The School would be closed to enable deep cleaning and only re-open with the approval of the health authorities.

In the event of a regional or state-wide lockdown imposed by the government, the School's academic programs and pastoral support will continue through online delivery. The first school day after the lockdown is called will be a non-contact day to enable families to get organised for home schooling. From the second day of lockdown, online teaching and learning will commence on a modified timetable to accommodate breaks for non-screen activities and recreation. Secondary students and parents will also receive an *Online Learning Guide and Continuity Plan* during lockdown to support the transition to online learning. We are conscious of the demands on Year 12 students at this time and every effort will be made to minimise disruption to their program and offer support as required.

Unless otherwise advised, I would expect the School to remain open for children of essential workers. These students will be taught online in keeping with their peers. There will be no face-to-face instruction with the exception of the Early Years (Little Wollies to Year 2) who will receive a modified program.

The ASC CEO and Principals are in communication to ensure the system is well prepared. The safety and wellbeing of students, staff and families continue to be the priority.

As we conclude the end of a very lively first week of Term 3, I wish to assure you that it is business as usual at this time. School activities and events are proceeding as planned with much to look forward to in the coming weeks, including the production *The Addams Family Musical* and Founders' Day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should the need arise.

Thank you for your support of the School it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

ANNE FORD
PRINCIPAL

23 July 2021

cc J Misso, Chair of School Council

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