



## From the Deputy Principal – COVID 19 Update

22 January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school next week, with all Kindergarten, Year 7 and other new students commencing Wednesday 27 January and all other students commencing Thursday 28 January. Although, we finalised 2020 with the hope that 2021 would be back to normal and COVID-19 would no longer be impacting our school, clearly some modifications and risk assessment mitigations are required to ensure the safety of our students and our whole school community. Even if there is a new increase in local cases resulting in significant changes, we are confident that with careful risk planning and sensible precautions, the education and the whole school experience of our students will be both positive and of the high standard they should expect from Pittwater House.

The following modifications and restrictions are based on the directives published to schools from the NSW Health and the Association of Independent Schools on Monday 18 January.

<b>Face Masks</b>	<p>NSW Health advice states that staff and students are not required to wear a face mask while at school. However, anyone who wishes to wear a face mask should do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All students over the age of 12 <b>must comply</b> with the Public Health Order 2021 (mandatory face masks) when travelling to and from school and during bus transport to excursions. Students under the age of 12 may wish to wear a mask, but it is not mandatory. Parents and carers of students with a medical condition preventing them from wearing a mask must notify the Pittwater House Health Centre.</li><li>• Students are expected to provide their own masks. If students forget their mask, they can be provided by the school for a cost of \$2 each which will be charged to their school account.</li><li>• Where visitors and parents are required to visit the school, mask wearing will be encouraged where social distancing cannot be maintained</li></ul>
<b>Excursions and Camps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools are allowed to conduct field trips, excursions and overnight activities within NSW.</li><li>• There is an increased requirement around COVID safety plans being implemented to facilitate this.</li><li>• COVID safety plans must be provided by all external providers.</li><li>• This will also apply to the Year 5 camp in Week 10 of this term.</li><li>• Please be aware that Excursion and Camps may be cancelled at short notice.</li></ul>

<b>Incursions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All scheduled incursions will take place. However, increased risk protocols will be required to be followed by presenters. There will be measures in place to minimise the mixing of students from different grades or stages.</li> </ul>
<b>Sanitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students and staff will continue to sanitise their hands when entering school, classrooms and other facilities.</li> <li>Cleaners will continue to sanitise door handles and public spaces where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitors</b>	<p>In most situations, visitors, parents and carers <u>will not</u> be allowed on campus unless necessary for operations or when conducting a risk assessed incursion. Exceptions to the rule will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents or carers going directly to the main reception (no other locations) for the purpose of collecting a child for an appointment or dropping off equipment.</li> <li>Attending booked appointments at the uniform shop</li> <li>Attending essential parent or carer meetings with Heads of School or pastoral staff with a scheduled appointment. These are to be zoomed or via other electronic means if possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All visitors who are requested to enter the campus must sign in with the NSW Health QR Codes that are placed at each entrance</li> <li>Class, co-curricular and activities will all maintain strict rolls of all participants in order to ensure contact tracing records are accurate.</li> </ul>
<b>Parent teacher evenings</b>	<p>Parent teacher interviews scheduled for Term 1 will take place via zoom.</p>
<b>Lockers</b>	<p>Secondary students are allowed to use their lockers. However, crowding in corridors will be monitored and students will be moved on from loitering in these areas during break time. Students should not be in corridors during breaks once they have retrieved their supplies from their lockers.</p>
<b>Interschool Sport</b>	<p>Interschool sport and physical activity can recommence. Students may also travel outside of the local area to compete in interschool sporting activities. Spectators, including parents and carers, <b>are not</b> permitted within school grounds for events or activities <b>held during school</b> hours. Spectator attendance to events held at locations other than school will be dependent on the COVID-19 safety plan of the venue.</p>
<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involving large gatherings, such as whole school assemblies will continue to be held via zoom.</li> <li>This will include the Year E to 11 Parent Information nights scheduled in Weeks 2 and 3.</li> </ul>
<b>Sick Students and staff</b>	<p>Pittwater House students and staff must all ensure they do not attend school if they are unwell or presenting with cold or flu symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students identified at school as being unwell will be sent to the Pittwater House Health Centre and parents will be required to collect them from school. Students</li> </ul>

	<p>sent home with cold or flu symptoms must present a negative COVID test to the school via attendance on Skoolbag prior to returning to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a student is absent for more than three days without a medical certificate, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and followed up by the school.</li> </ul>
<b>Isolating Students</b>	If students are forced to isolate, but are feeling well enough to complete work, parents are encouraged to email the appropriate Year Coordinator or Assistant Head of School requesting work. Although, many teachers put up most of their work on platforms such as Canvas, students isolating at home will experience a higher level of teacher direction if they contact the School informing us of the capacity of the absent student to complete work.
<b>Performing Arts</b>	NSW Health advice has indicated that singing and musical groups remain a high-risk activity for COVID-19 transmission. However, guidelines have been provided to schools to allow most of these activities to take place in a COVID safe manner. More specific details will follow.
<b>Staff Gatherings and social distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the students are not required to social distance, 1 in 4 square metre rule must be followed for adults.</li> <li>• All teachers, support staff and parents must maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m).</li> </ul>
<b>Bubblers</b>	Bubblers are now allowed to be turned on. Students should continue to be encouraged to bring water bottles from home that they can refill when needed.
<b>Canteen</b>	The canteen will continue to provide on-line orders only.

Schools have been advised to refer staff and school families to the Health website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates> which identifies the NSW venues where there has been a confirmed case and the dates of potential contagion. Staff and/ or students/ families should follow Health advice to self-isolate and be tested if they visited any of the venues on specified days.

If students are forced to isolate, but are feeling well enough to complete work, parents are encouraged to email the appropriate Year Coordinator or Assistant Head of School requesting work. Although, many teachers put up most of their work on platforms such as Canvas, students isolating at home will experience a higher level of teacher direction if they contact the School informing us of the capacity of the absent student to complete work.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on [james.walmsley@tphs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:james.walmsley@tphs.nsw.edu.au).

Yours sincerely,



James Walmsley  
Deputy Principal