



18 August 2020

Dear Warrawong High School Community,

Yesterday afternoon NSW Health released new guidelines for schools in response to the threat of COVID-19. The Department of Education gave further clarification last night. The guidelines will be in place for the remainder of Term 3 and will be revised for Term 4.

Below, I have provided updated restrictions for our school, however, if you would like more detailed information please follow the link to the Departments full policy 'Advice for Families'.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

Schools are operating full time while actively following health advice.

Schools continue to be safe, and operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health advice. All students should be learning on campus unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.

The activities that are permitted at school will be conducted in a way that is safe and appropriate in the current environment. Those that remain on hold will be reviewed during the term and will recommence when appropriate, based on health and other relevant advice.

School attendance

Students should be at 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.
- **Due to Parents/carers not being allowed on the school site**, any student sent home sick will be accompanied to the Flagstaff Road pedestrian entry to meet their Parent/Carer.

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded students and staff absent or sent home with flu-like symptoms need to undergo a COVID-19 test. Students and staff are not permitted to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free.

School activities

Additional safety measures for school activities have been put in place to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools for the remainder of Term 3.

- Where possible, students will stay within their relevant cohort group (i.e. class, year group, or stage) for all learning activities within their school.
- Interschool activities must remain within the local community or zone.

127 Cowper Street, Warrawong, NSW 2502 - PO Box 105 Warrawong NSW 2502 - T: 4274 0707 - F: 4276 2836

www.warrawong-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

- Only providers that are essential to the delivery of curriculum can continue to provide services and programs until further notice.
- **Parents/carers and other non-essential visitors are not allowed on the school site.**
- All group singing (choirs) and/or other chanting activities, as well as the use of wind instruments in group settings, are not permitted. Special arrangements are in place for HSC students.
- School community functions are no longer permitted. All school related social activities (school dinners, dances or parent engagement functions) must cease altogether.
- School related overnight events (eg camps & excursions must cease altogether.)
- Year 7 2021 Orientation Day has been postponed to Term 4.
- Year 11 and 12 students completing HSC subjects may continue to attend classes/activities relating to subjects only available on other campuses. All other students including Year 11 students not completing an HSC subject are not to attend other campuses for the remainder of Term 3. TAFE and other Vet programs may continue.

Year 12 Graduation Event

- School formals, dances, graduation or other social events are not permitted. Schools may hold a Year 12 assembly at school, without parents, to recognise the completion of school. Schools may consider delaying events until later in the year.

I am deeply disappointed for our current Year 12 students. Their rite of passage and formal recognition of the end of their schooling has been clearly impacted. We will reevaluate the situation as Graduation Day draws nearer. In the event of no parents/carers being allowed in the school, we will livestream the assembly.

Please know that we are doing everything we can to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on our school community.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely



Brad Hughes
Principal