



19 August 2020

Dear Members of the Lindisfarne School Community,

COVID-19 Principal's Update 18 NSW Public Health Requirements effective Wednesday, 19 August 2020

In response to recent COVID-19 cases in some New South Wales (NSW) schools, the Chief Health Officer NSW Ministry of Health, Dr Kerry Chant, has updated directives to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in NSW school communities. This is part of the NSW Government's aim of achieving no community transmission in NSW. All schools in NSW are now required to follow the advice below for the next six weeks.

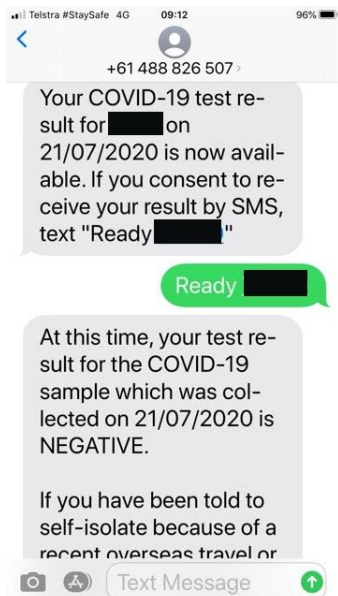
NSW Health is actively discouraging all parents, guardians and grandparents from entering school sites in all NSW schools for the remainder of Term 3 other than for essential purposes. Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School must comply with this NSW Public Health directive and I ask that parents respect this short-term change in our practices. The only exception being Preschool parents who may continue to deliver children to the Preschool in line with expectations under national quality standards.

NSW Health requires schools to:

- **exclude students and staff with even mild symptoms of COVID-19**
- **encourage immediate testing for any symptomatic child(ren) or staff**
- **prohibit return to school for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 until a negative COVID-19 test result has been reported to the School.**

To support these NSW Health directives parents are now required to forward their children's COVID-19 test results indicating a **NEGATIVE** result by email or text message prior to returning to school and they may return only after their symptoms have abated. This can be done by taking a screenshot of the results and forwarding by email to reception@lindisfarne.nsw.edu.au or text message to 0438 953 922.

An example screenshot appears on the next page.



Additionally, NSW Health requires schools to:

- ensure adults maintain physical distancing at all times
- ensure good hand hygiene at all times (e.g. upon entry to the School, entry to the classroom and upon exit of the classroom)
- for activities that result in the mixing of students and staff from schools in the local area (e.g. local inter-school sports competitions), develop and ensure compliance with a COVID safety plan based on the template for community sport activities
- for local activities, limit spectators to one parent only, where parental supervision is required
- carefully consider face-to-face professional learning for staff and, if proceeding, ensure COVID safety through physical distancing and limiting group numbers
- avoid professional learning activities that require staff to mix across schools.

NSW Health has also informed all schools that the following practices **MUST CEASE** altogether from Wednesday, 19 August for the remainder of Term 3.

These include:

1. Activities that result in the mixing of students from schools in different regions, such as sporting-related activities, drama and debating.
2. School-related group singing or chanting activities and use of wind instruments in groups. Individual tutoring may continue with appropriate conditions in place.

A number of activities have been put on hold including the Stage 2 musical production, *Pirates the Musical*. We are currently putting a video package together to showcase the incredible work of our students and staff thus far. Other events and groups will also be modified or placed on hold, and changes will be communicated to those impacted.

3. School-related social activities (e.g. school formals with parents, dinners or dances, graduation ceremonies or parent engagement functions).

Year 12 events are being reassessed under this new advice and Mrs Lush, our Deputy Principal/Head of Senior School, will communicate these changes as soon as possible. We remain committed to supporting our Year 12 students during this constant time of change, postponing and modifying events rather than outright cancellations.

4. School-related overnight events (e.g. retreats and camps) as there is increased risk of transmission of the virus in residential type settings with shared facilities.

The School has already moved any planned Term 3 camps into Term 4 and new dates will be advised. We will look to what is possible in Term 4 and modify or adjust arrangements as necessary.

Hygiene Reminders

The School continues to be vigilant implementing infection control and personal hygiene protocols to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School will continue to promote the need to follow good hygiene practices including:

- widespread temperature checking for staff and students on arrival at school
- regularly washing of hands with soap and water
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or into a tissue which should be discarded immediately
- filling water bottles from refill stations
- no over-the-counter canteen sales. All orders are to be made via Flexi Schools, www.flexischools.com.au.

Responding to COVID-19 cases

We have a clear plan in place for our school to respond to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. We are working closely with NSW Health and AISNSW and will communicate with parents if a situation arises.

Latest COVID-19 case locations in NSW

To find out if you have been in a location where there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19, please check the [latest COVID-19 case locations in NSW](#) and follow the recommended actions. We encourage all members of the community to monitor this site. Please follow the relevant health advice if you have been at any of the listed locations at the specified dates and times.

We continue to keep our community's health and safety at the forefront of our practices at the School, and we recognise these changes will be challenging. We suggest you speak with your children about these changes so they quickly understand and become comfortable with them. It is important that we remain caring of one another while we continue to support our students through the remainder of the term.

Please be reassured that we are doing all we can to ensure continuity of learning for our students and working hard to ensure that the unique challenges of our border community are recognised by all levels of government. I am grateful for the representation of Member for Tweed Heads, Geoff Provest MP, for his advocacy for our schools.

Mr Provest facilitated an opportunity for Principals of local independent, catholic and public schools to meet in person with the NSW Education Minister, The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC earlier today. Each Principal was able to share the unique challenges we face at this time and advocate strongly for cross border access to education for our staff, students and parents — even if it means continuing to operate in a “border bubble”. I also took the opportunity to share the extraordinary

work of our staff, students and school community as, together, we remain resilient, adaptable and agile in this time of unprecedented change.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please contact your Head of Subschool, Mrs Charlotte Lush (Senior), Mr Jeremy Godden (Middle), Mr Mark Douglas (Junior), or our Director of Community Engagement, Mr Simon McKinley, if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Marquardt', with a horizontal line underneath.

Stuart Marquardt
Principal