
Macquarie College COVID-19 Update 20 ~ 29 April

1 message

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29 April 2020 at 11:02



Good morning Parents and Carers,

Below is a further update from Macquarie College in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Plan for the Return to Onsite School Attendance at MC

Throughout the course of the COVID-19 outbreak Macquarie College has consistently sought to align our practice to relevant government advice. Hence, our plan for the return of students to learning onsite at Macquarie College commences from Monday 11 May (Monday Week 3).

As part of this plan, priority has been placed on returning our youngest learners, together with our Stage 6 (Preliminary and HSC) students to class onsite as soon as practicable, with all other classes returning on a part time basis before moving to all students onsite later in Term 2. This plan has taken into account feedback from parents/carers and school staff while also taking into account government recommendations of a staged approach to the return of students to school with the aim of ensuring that all MC students have the opportunity to attend class full time and onsite by the end of Term 2.

When will my child's class return to onsite learning?

Per the calendar below, the plan for students learning onsite in Term 2 at MC is as follows:

- Weeks 1 and 2: MC Cloud for all students K-12*
- Week 3: Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 students returning to 5 days per week for the remainder of the Term*
- Week 4: Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 students (5 days) and Years 6 and 7 (Monday only), Years 2 and 8 (Tuesday only), Years 3 and 9 (Wednesday only), Years 4 and 10 (Thursday only), Year 5 (Friday only)*
- Week 5: Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 students (5 days) and other classes TBC*

* This outline may change dependent upon Government advice

PLEASE NOTE: It is the intention of Macquarie College to make full time, onsite learning available to all students as soon as is practicable. Hence, dependent upon expert advice, it is likely that the schedule for Weeks 5-7 will see all students, over that period, returning to full time onsite learning.

Please [click here](#) to view the Calendar for the return of students.

What if I need (or want) my child to come to school before their class is scheduled to return?

All students are welcome on campus. However, prior to a class' scheduled return, students will likely be working via MC Cloud in a supervised setting.

Will my child still be able to access learning via MC Cloud on days when they are not scheduled to be at school?

Yes, MC Cloud will continue to operate in its current format for days when a child's given class is not scheduled to attend school and/or up until all students are scheduled to return to class full time.

Will MC Cloud still be available after all classes have returned to full time onsite learning?

MC Cloud will still be operating, in a modified format, after onsite classes return. Macquarie College understands that there will be some families for whom the MC Cloud platform remains the most suitable form of learning due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The return of students to onsite learning includes the maintenance of the following conditions at Macquarie College

Management of students who are unwell:

Current health advice for families with students who are unwell (temperature at or above 37.9 or with severe respiratory symptoms) is for those students to be kept at home and under no circumstances should they be sent to school. In such circumstances, the unwell student should remain at home until they are symptom free without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g. cold and flu medications, cough suppressants etc.). In circumstances where a student presents at school when they are unwell or develops flu-like symptoms throughout the day, families will be asked to collect them immediately. This advice is not based on the assumption that a student presenting with flu-like symptoms does, in fact, have COVID-19, but rather is a proactive measure to ensure that in the worst case scenario, the risk of secondary infections is greatly reduced.

Management of an onsite COVID-19 case:

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, Macquarie College will instigate a staged closure based upon the support and advice of relevant Government Departments and the Association of Independent Schools NSW. Any such staged closure would likely result in the following stepped out process:

1. School closure for a limited number of days to allow identification of potential primary and secondary transmitters of the virus (1-2 days is the typical period of school closure to date).
2. Exclusion of any students and/or staff for a mandated period of isolation (the period of isolation to be determined by the relevant Government authority).
3. Deep cleaning of the school to eliminate potential virus residue (completed by an authorised agency).
4. School reopens (pending approval of the relevant Government authority).

When considering the above points it is important to note that a potential response may vary dependent upon the scale of any exposure.

Management of our learning spaces and programs includes the following requirements/expectations:

- The provision of hand sanitizer and/or soap and water in all classrooms/work spaces
- Maintaining cross ventilation of classrooms (including doors to remain open unless inappropriate)

- Daily deep cleaning of all high-use areas, including the disinfecting of high-use surfaces
- Use of outdoors spaces to be used for classes where practicable
- Nil assemblies, chapel programs or interschool sports/cultural events
- Nil excursions/camps
- Where practicable, students encouraged to observed the 1.5m distancing rules throughout the school day (including staff supervision of the canteen and outdoor areas)
- All staff meetings/gatherings via online platforms or where distancing protocols are observed (this measure includes staff offices)
- Infrared thermometer checks of staff and students throughout each day

Management of our site access includes the following requirements/expectations:

- Staff supervision of the drop off and pick up areas to ensure all non-essential site visitors remain in vehicles (when dropping off/picking up any K-12 students, all parents/carers are to remain in their vehicles)
- All site visitors, including parents/carers and contractors, to report to the main school office to both sign in and have their temperature checked via an infrared thermometer, prior to entry onto the campus
- A limit of two customers, by appointment, in the Uniform Store at any one time

Finally, thank you for your patience and support over the past weeks as we have each moved through the complexities of online learning, social isolation within homes and the constriction of the economy. While there will no doubt be numerous challenges ahead, there will also be opportunities for us as a learning community to continue to support each other. Please be assured that your child's teachers are looking forward to welcoming them back to onsite learning over the coming weeks and we trust that such learning will play an important part in helping to normalise life for your family at this time.

If you would like further information or clarification in relation to the information published above, please feel welcome to contact me at principal@mc.nsw.edu.au

Further updates in relation to the operation of Macquarie College in response to the COVID-19 outbreak will be published to you as required.

Kind regards,

Rohan Deanshaw

Principal

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