
Macquarie College COVID-19 Update 21 ~ 6 May

1 message

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6 May 2020 at 12:26



Good morning Parents and Carers,

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

Update to the Plan for the Return to Onsite Learning at MC

On 29 April Macquarie College published a plan for the return to onsite learning, noting at the time that the plan may change. In response to Government advice and feedback from families, the plan for the return of students to onsite learning at MC has now been updated. Those changes are described here and represented in calendar form below.

Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 will return to full time onsite learning from Monday May 11. (This has not changed from the advice published on 29 April).

Importantly however, and in response to feedback from our community, from Monday 18 May, *all* students Kindergarten to Year 12 will return to full time onsite learning at Macquarie College. (This is a change to the advice published on 29 April).

While this change is a direct response to Government advice and feedback from families, Macquarie College understands that for some families the MC Cloud platform remains the most suitable form of learning due to the COVID-19 outbreak. For that reason, MC Cloud will continue to operate throughout Term 2, providing families the opportunity to choose a full time onsite, part-time onsite/off site and/or full time offsite learning interface for their children. Hence, this updated plan, while ensuring that all students K-12 have the option of returning to school full time from Monday 18 May, ensures that parents/carers may also choose to vary that attendance dependent upon their families unique circumstances and response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

To support this process, in the coming days a fresh registration process for families seeking to access MC Cloud from Monday 18 May will be published to you. This registration process is necessary as the school remains legally required to record school attendance, whether that be on or off site.

The updated plan for the return of students to onsite learning at MC is now as follows:

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

Per the calendar below, the updated plan for students learning onsite in Term 2 at MC is now 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 full time, onsite learning for the remainder of the Term.* Students in Years 2 to Year 10 may also attend school during this week and MC Cloud will be available in its current format to support students where families choose to keep students at home.
- Week 4: All students in Kindergarten to Year 12 return to full time, onsite learning for the remainder of the Term.* (As described above, families wishing to access MC Cloud from Monday 18 May onwards will need to re-register for that program to ensure the school is able to meet its recording of school attendance requirements).

* This outline may change dependent upon Government advice

Please access the calendar [here](#).

What if I need (or want) my child to come to school before their class is scheduled to return and/or on a day when their class is not scheduled to be at school?

All students are welcome on campus every school day. 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 may be some families for whom the MC Cloud platform remains the most suitable form of learning due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, families wishing to access MC Cloud from Monday 18 May will need to re-register for the program. (The re-registration process will be published to you in the coming days).

What Uniform Should my Child Wear When They Return to School?

Full winter uniform is now required to be worn by all students in K-12. Given the intent to operate classrooms with cross ventilation, students will be permitted to wear a MC scarf (available from the MC uniform shop) and a plain, navy blue beanie. (Beanies which are not plain navy blue and/or include logos, patterns, ties etc. may not be worn).

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.

MC COVID-19 Relief Fund

Macquarie College remains committed to ensuring that no family in either the 2020 or 2021 school years will be faced with the decision to withdraw their children from the school based upon financial hardship brought about through the COVID-19 outbreak.

To that end, Macquarie College has established the MC COVID-19 Relief Fund, with the provision of an initial \$200,000 and the following assistance measures:

- That the MC COVID-19 Relief Fund be made available to families to ensure that fee support and/or remission is able to be directed most effectively to families in need. (These funds will assist in ensuring that families in need can be assured of their capacity to meet their school fee commitments for the 2020 and 2021 school years).
- The implementation of a fast-tracked system of highly flexible fee support and/or remission strategies (this measure streamlines and simplifies the previous support application process to ensure that families needing support are not being asked to navigate unnecessary complexity).
- The monitoring of these measures over the next 18 months to ensure that if COVID-19 support is still required post the 2021 school year, sufficient plans have been put in place to maintain such assistance on a needs basis.

Macquarie College places a high value on each and every one of our students and the families they represent and, as such, we remain committed to ensuring that we take all reasonable steps

to ensure that, as a school community, we will get through this most difficult and complex period together. To that end, please do not hesitate to contact our Business Manager, Stephen Andrews, at businessmanager@mc.nsw.edu.au, if assistance, via the MC COVID-19 Relief Fund may be beneficial either now or in the coming 18 months.

Finally, thank you for your patience as Macquarie College continues to adapt its programs and schedules around the COVID-19 outbreak. We trust that by publishing this update to the return to onsite school attendance now, families will have the time to plan in advance for their child's successful return to onsite learning.

Please also feel welcome to contact me directly at principal@mc.nsw.edu.au if I can be of assistance over the coming days and weeks. Your feedback and input is both valued and appreciated.

Macquarie College will continue to monitor the current Government advice in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak and provide further updates as relevant to our community.

Kind regards,

Rohan Deanshaw

Principal

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