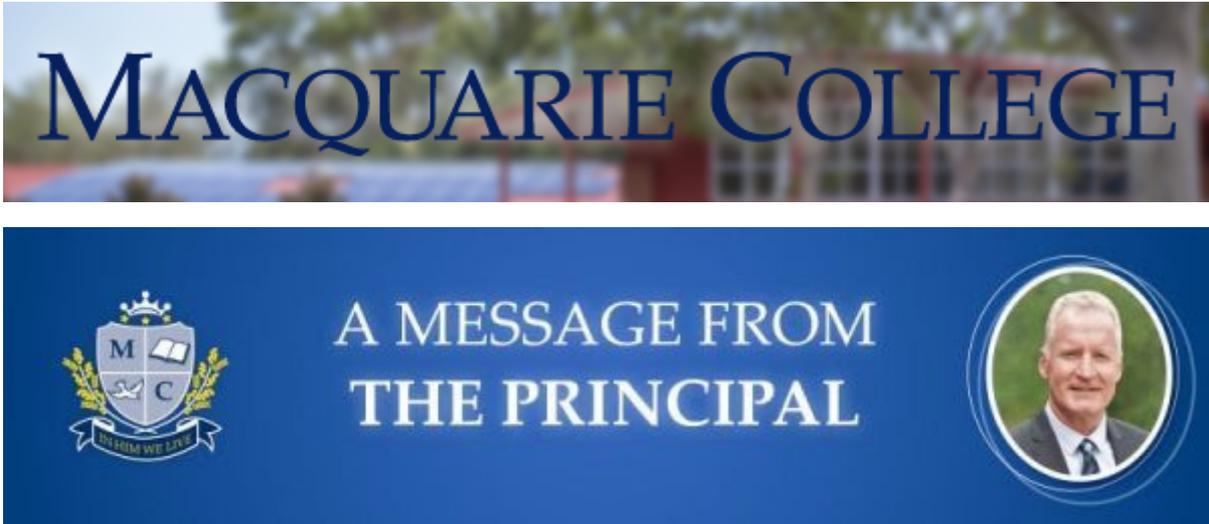


COVID-19 (Update 1 - 10.3.2020)

1 message

seqta@mc.nsw.edu.au <seqta@mc.nsw.edu.au>
Reply-To: "ajackson@mc.nsw.edu.au" <ajackson@mc.nsw.edu.au>
To: "ajackson@mc.nsw.edu.au" <ajackson@mc.nsw.edu.au>

10 March 2020 at 15:00



Good afternoon Parents and Carers,

This email is an update to the original advice published to our school community on Thursday 27 February 2020.

Macquarie College is continuing to actively monitor advice provided by the Federal Government, the Association of Independent Schools NSW and travel advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Due to the developing nature of the current COVID-19 virus outbreak, the scheduled Macquarie College Music trip to the Berklee College of Music, originally planned for 24th of April - 3rd of May, has now been postponed to a date to be confirmed. Macquarie College will continue to communicate with the Berklee College of Music over the coming weeks and, it is highly likely that, COVID-19 virus outbreak dependent, we should be able to reschedule that program to a suitable future date.

The in-country conditions and program circumstances related to all other Macquarie College overseas programs scheduled for 2020 will be monitored over the coming weeks. Despite current travel advice from the Federal Government suggesting normal levels of precautions for many overseas destinations, our first responsibility as a school will always be to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, meaning that in some circumstances, such as the Berklee College of Music program, postponement is the most appropriate option at the time. Advice in regards to specific programs will be provided on a case by case basis.

It is not anticipated at this time that the COVID-19 outbreak will impact upon the scheduling of upcoming class/year level camps, other than the reasonable monitoring and control measures associated with ensuring the health and wellbeing of students participating in such events.

From that perspective, it is timely to note that current health advice for families with students who are unwell (temperature at or above 37.9 or severe respiratory symptoms) is that those students should 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.

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.

Based upon advice from the Association of Independent Schools NSW, all students and staff at Macquarie College will be reminded over the coming days of the various proactive personal health measures they can take to limit their potential exposure to the COVID-19 outbreak. Part of this response will be to make large bottles of hand sanitizer available in classrooms, workstations and public areas of the campus.

COVID-19 relevant World Health Organisation posters, as shown below, will be displayed in each classroom, workstation and throughout public spaces across the campus. Families are also encouraged to, where appropriate, include the significance of these practical health measures in conversations with their children.



Protect yourself and others from getting sick

Wash your hands

- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste




Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing **cover mouth and nose** with flexed elbow or tissue



Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use



Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water after coughing or sneezing and when caring for the sick




Protect others from getting sick

Avoid close contact when you are experiencing cough and fever



Avoid spitting in public



If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing **seek medical care early** and share previous travel history with your health care provider




Finally, it is important to note, that while not downplaying the potential impact of COVID-19 upon individuals and/or communities, to date it appears that infection rates have been largely managed through practical health measures such as those set out above. Hence, at this time I am seeking both your patience and support as Macquarie College seeks to proactively and professionally manage the care of students and staff throughout the period of this virus outbreak as set out through the measures outlined above.

An update to this message will be published in a fortnight unless circumstances change significantly in the interim.

Kind regards



Rohan Deanshaw

Principal

Macquarie College
(02) 4954 6222 | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)
182-222 Lake Road (PO Box 517), Wallsend NSW 2287



This email was sent to merriamzoghbi@yahoo.com.au from SEQTA Teach. If you believe you received this email in error, please contact Macquarie College.

For more information on SEQTA, visit www.seqta.com.au.