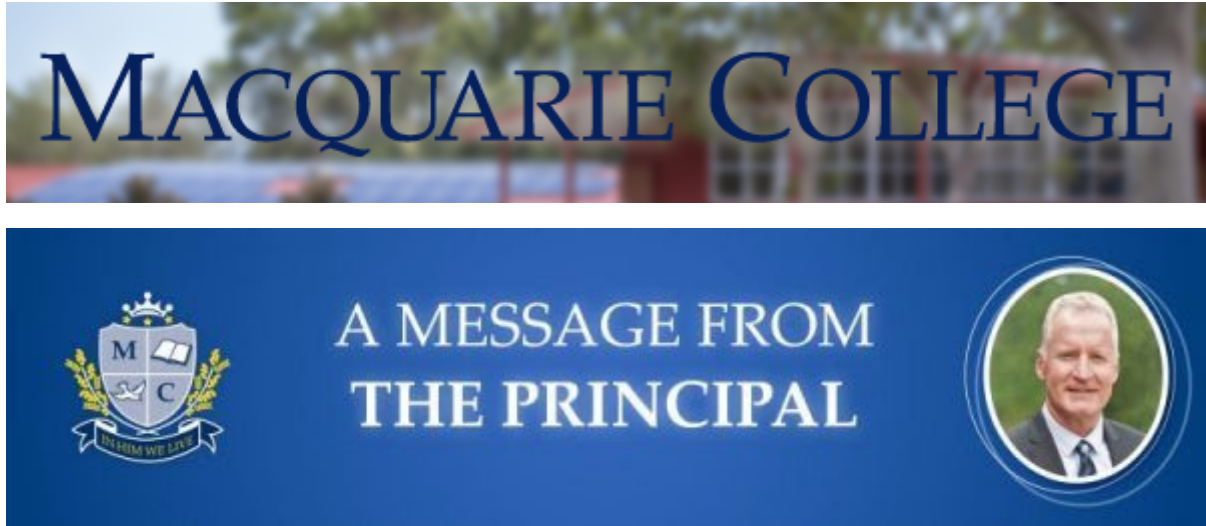

Macquarie College Information for Parents COVID-19 (Update 6 - 16 March)

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>

16 March 2020 at 12:13



Good morning Parents and Carers,

The following update has been provided by the NNSW School Company, the owner and operator of Macquarie College, on 16.3.20:

"Will My School Close?"

School closure is not required yet by government agencies and if and when that were to occur, it will be to act as a 'slow the spread' of the virus management mechanism, rather than a change to the 'at risk' profile of our workforce and student population.

If the government closes schools, we will comply. We do not plan to close schools before this announcement is made.

What if there is a diagnosis in my school?

If there is a diagnosis of CoVID19 in our school, we will close school for a short period of time to determine who has been in contact, to identify those at risk so that they may commence quarantine, deep clean the affected areas and then reopen. This may take 1-3 days.

If the number of students or staff impacted is great enough, then a period of 14 days total school closure could commence.

What about my child's schooling?

If your child enters a period of quarantine whilst the rest of the school operates, school work, appropriate for someone who is unwell, will be provided.

If they are not sick but are quarantined whilst the rest of the school operates, school work will be provided and where appropriate, remote access to some part of the school day.

If school is closed for a lengthy period of time, more than a week, then adjustments to teaching plans for the term will result and appropriate adjustments; including schooling from home, remote access, and self-paced home based work, will be used as appropriate."

In addition to the above advice Macquarie College is now introducing the following measures, effective immediately, to assist in maintaining a safe and healthy environment at our school.

Onsite and offsite activities

- School assemblies, weekly chapel programs, FLAG and WOSE programs, sporting carnivals, concerts etc. will be paused until further notice.
- Likewise, all excursions and offsite activities will be paused until further notice.
- Onsite visits by none essential visitors will be limited on a case-by-case basis, meaning that events such as the academic report related parent/teacher interviews, the MC Inspire Seminar Series etc, will also be paused until further notice.

Continuity of Learning and School Attendance

- In the coming days, Macquarie College will release details of the MC @ Home Learning program to ensure the continuity of high-quality learning in the event that a student is absent from their regular class due to a temporary whole of school closure, a child is absent due to illness related to the COVID-19 outbreak, or a family determines to keep their children at home for periods of time due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- In the event that a student is absent from their actual class in the circumstances outlined above, they will not be counted as being 'absent from school' with class rolls recording 'alternate program' instead. In such circumstances, parents and carers are required to notify their child's class teacher (Junior School) or the Senior School Office, as applicable.

I appreciate that the current COVID-19 outbreak is creating extraordinary disruption to normal family and work schedules, together with generalised anxiety in relation to both personal and family health and wellbeing. Macquarie College regularly receives advice from relevant agencies including NSW

Department of Health, NSW Department of Education, and the Association of Independent Schools NSW. Please [click here](#) to read a copy of the letter received from the NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant PSM, on Sunday 15th March which provides insights into the decision-making involved on matters relating to pre-emptive or reactive closures of Schools.

Macquarie College is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy school environment for all of our community members, hence the actions outlined above, including the MC @ Home Learning program, are intended to best support you as families over the coming weeks and months. While the coming days, weeks and months may present new challenges, they will no doubt also present us with opportunities to pull together as a school community. Together we will get through the days, weeks and months ahead.

Please feel welcome to communicate with me directly at principal@mc.nsw.edu.au if you have specific questions relating to the school program which have not been covered to date in the Macquarie College COVID-19 Updates.

Given the changing nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, further updates will now be published on a needs basis. We will also publish recent and ongoing parent messages regarding COVID-19 to our website which you can access [here](#).

Kind regards,



Rohan Deanshaw

Principal

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



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

