
Macquarie College COVID-19 Update 8 - 19 March

1 message

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19 March 2020 at 15:48



Good afternoon Parents and Carers

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

Financial Support for Macquarie College Families

With the ongoing impacts rippling throughout the community as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, we are aware that some school families may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty about their future capacity to pay school fees.

We want you to know that we are not only sensitive to this, but are willing and able to provide fee assistance support to families that may experience financial hardship in the coming weeks and months. It is important to us that our families have peace of mind and are able to focus on the care and nurture of their children.

Whether it be a pause in payments, an extension of time, fee remission, or a combination of these, we are willing to provide some flexibility around fee payments. Whatever it may be, please contact our Business Manager, Stephen Andrews, directly via email

at businessmanager@mc.nsw.edu.au to have a confidential conversation about your specific needs and circumstances.

It is our intention to do all that we can to ensure that our entire Macquarie College community are able to navigate the coming period without undue stress and concern related to school fees.

Library Services

To assist in supporting families over the coming weeks, our Library has increased the borrowing limit per students from two books to five. It is our hope that this small measure will help to encourage students to continue reading when they are at home. Our senior school students also have access to our Ebook and audiobook platform, which can be accessed via the Library homepage 24/7.

Parents wishing to attend at school and borrow books on behalf of their children are encouraged to do so between 9:00 -10:00 am each day.

A Further Update from the NNSW School Company (the owner and operator of Macquarie College)

- *The government have declared Level 4 travel restrictions: Do not go overseas.*
- *Australia is looking at a 6-month resolution journey, not a two to four week quick fix.*
- *A ban on indoor gatherings greater than 100 is now in place: outdoor 500.*
- *Social distancing, better referred to as physical distancing, remains the main mitigation practice, along with good hygiene practices and the ongoing long term quarantining for those who are at high risk, including the 14 days for those who have caught the virus.*
- *Keeping Australians working is a cornerstone of the government's current position.*
- *COVID19 is contagious and it does make the individual sick, BUT it is life threatening only for a small percentage of the population who either due to age and / or pre-existing conditions, such as immune deficiencies, are more susceptible to its acute impacts.*
- *The governments' approach is to slow the spread, so as to ensure resources are available to support the high risk members of our population, and to in turn, support the remainder in coping with their own periods of varying degrees of illness.*
- *The majority of the population will 'catch' the virus at some point this year and then in turn experience it to greater and lesser degrees.*
- *Schools currently will remain open.*

What about now, will my school close?

SDA Schools NNSW, including our school, remain committed to supporting students and families as we work within the advice of the federal and state governments, along with the health experts of our nation.

Our schools will remain open until we are directed to close by the government.

If and when closure were to happen, based on current advice from the government, it is expected to mean an 'at home' delivery of learning either via direct digital means or via self-directed learning tasks: not a hard lockdown as we see in some other countries with all learning ceasing. This mode of learning can never replace the face to face in school experiences, but we do believe we can provide a degree of continuity of learning to cope with a period of closure. The current advice is that if such closure does take place, it is not expected to be lengthy.

What does 'at home' learning really mean, in simple words?

It means a mix of online and offline activities:

It means that depending on your school's location and size, your access to technology and the internet access you have at home, that learning may look like face to face over the internet classes right through to working off paper based booklets. It could mean using online resources and systems or it could be emails, text messages and phone calls. It could be mostly student directed, it could be driven by teachers via skype, zoom, facetime; the list is nearly endless.

Each school in NNSW is building a model of learning that suits their and your context. Learning that is sustainable long term; and that is the real key. Each school is hand crafting, bespoke building this off site learning experience with focus and commitment: whilst still being the school you need each day to care for your children.

Schools though cannot simply offer full service learning at school and online / off site to the same standard simultaneously long term. Whilst schools remain open, on site learning remains our focus, we will support as best we can those that are in periods of self isolation or quarantine, but regular school is where our main effort exists. If, and it is an if, schools close, then we will flip to the online/off site learning journey as our focus.

These are truly uncertain times but be assured that your children, our staff and us as a community are central to our planning, our decision making and our efforts to provide safety, security and ongoing learning for all of our children.

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

Kind regards

Rohan Deanshaw

Principal

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