



March 16th, 2020

Dear Koo Wee Rup Secondary College community,

As you are aware the State and Federal governments and consequently the Department of Education have been putting in place measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

As of today we along with all schools received the following information:

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

All camps scheduled to commence from and including Tuesday 17 March must be postponed and rescheduled, or, if there is no other option, cancelled.

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS

Everyone arriving into Australia from overseas from midnight 15 March will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This obviously includes students and staff who may be returning from overseas excursions or other travel. Importantly, it also includes parents and carers and any other relatives or friends of students who are returning from overseas travel. As they are required to self-isolate, they must not visit the school to pick up children or for any other reason. In addition, in response to the New Zealand Government's travel restrictions announced over the weekend, staff and students can no longer travel to New Zealand. This is effective from, Sunday 15 March 2020.

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE VISITS

Based on advice from the Commonwealth Government to protect vulnerable Australians, schools should not visit residential aged care facilities. Therefore our students will not be involved with activities run at the Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service for the time being. Included but not limited to The Men's Shed and The Hub.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

No government school is currently closed or in the process of being closed. You will be informed directly if there is any prospect that our school will be closed, either as a stand-alone school closure or as part of a local or area-based closure. You will then be provided with detailed advice, a step-by-step guide and communication resources to support you through that process.

ORGANISED GATHERINGS

The Commonwealth Government has announced that mass gatherings of more than 500 people are now prohibited. This explicitly does not include schools running normal teaching and learning programs. It does, however, apply to any school event that involves attendance by community members who are not students or staff (where staff includes support staff) and where total attendance will exceed 500. This includes school assemblies and sporting events.

GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES

A [poster communicating good hygiene practices](#) is available on the [Department of Health and Human Services' coronavirus website](#). Please emphasise to students the importance of washing hands thoroughly with soap and water. We have placed posters around the school to carry this message.

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS, AS A SCHOOL WE HAVE DECIDED TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE THE FOLLOWING EVENTS.

DATE	EVENT	STATUS
March 18th	Year 12 Geography excursion	Cancelled
March 18th	Grade 6 Information Night	Postponed. We will continue to offer Wednesday morning tours to small groups. Information will be available electronically via website.
March 19th	Year 7 and 8 tennis	Postponed
March 20th	Golf 7 to 12	Postponed
March 22nd	BUSHFIRE RELIEF CONCERT	Postponed. As this was publicised throughout the area, please spread the word.
March 23rd	SCHOOL PHOTOS	SchoolPix has advised that they have made the decision to postpone all school photography jobs for the remainder of Term 1 . Our new dates are May 25 th with May 28 th the catch up day for absent students. They will email all parents that have placed an order online to let them know that it will be held until photography has been completed.
March 23rd	Intermediate cricket and volleyball	Postponed.
March 23rd	Music Festival soloists' night	Postponed

March 24th	House Athletics at Casey Fields	Postponed
March 25th	PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS	Postponed. Parents will STILL be able to access their child's term 1 report online from Wednesday March 18 th via COMPASS. Please contact your child's teachers if you have any concerns.
March 25th	Music excursion to Billy Elliott	Cancelled
March 26th	SMR Swimming	Postponed.
March 26th	Year 12 Studio Arts and Vis Com excursion to the art gallery	Cancelled
March 27th	902 helping KWRPS with their sports day	Cancelled
March 27th	HHD excursion down the street	Cancelled
April 8th	Music excursion to Shrek the musical	Cancelled
April 14 th , 15 th , 16th	Year 10 Science excursions	Cancelled
April 16th	Senior Boys Baseball	Postponed
April 18 th , 19th	Music students and Band members performing at Yakkerboo	Cancelled
April 21st	Year 10 and VCAL Careers excursion	Cancelled
April 22nd	State Swimming	Postponed
April 25th	ANZAC Day march – our band normally marches in the city	To be confirmed.
April 27th	Senior AFL, soccer and netball	Postponed
May 1st	VCE Careers expo Years 11 and 12	Cancelled
May 1st	Music Festival 7pm	We are looking at postponing this to a later date.
May 4th	Year 8 AFL, soccer and netball	Postponed.
May 7 th and 8th	Deb Balls	Moved to October 28 th and 29 th . Letter has been given to students with details of new arrangements.
May 8th	Year 7 Girls Softball	Postponed.

If you have already paid for an event that has been cancelled, we will credit your account. If you require a refund, please contact the Finance Office.

We do not take these decisions lightly but they are in conjunction with advice from the Department of Education and Department of Health.

PLEASE ALSO AS A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE VICTORIAN CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER WITH REGARD TO SCHOOL CLOSURES:



Department of Health and Human Services

50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: 1300 650 172
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
DX 210081

STATEMENT ON SCHOOL CLOSURES IN VICTORIA

Dr Brett Sutton MBBS MPHTM FAFPHM FRSPH FACTM MFTM

Victorian Chief Health Officer

Victorian Chief Human Biosecurity Officer

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) met recently to consider the issue of school closures in relation to the community transmission of COVID-19.

The Committee's advice is that pre-emptive school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time.

As Victoria's Chief Health Officer and as a member of the AHPPC, I fully endorse this advice in relation to schools in Victoria.

There is currently limited information on the contribution of children to transmission of COVID-19. The WHO-China Joint Mission noted the primary role of household transmission and observed that children tended to be infected from adults.

Previous work suggests that the potential reduction in community transmission from pre-emptive school closures may be offset by the care arrangements that are in place for children who are not at school.

There is a particular risk associated with the fact that children may require care from vulnerable grandparents or may continue to associate (and transmit infection) outside of school settings.

Broadly, the health advice on school closures from previous respiratory epidemics shows the health costs are often underestimated and the benefits are overestimated.

This may be even more so in relation to COVID-19 as unlike influenza, the impact on otherwise healthy children has been minimal to date.

For pre-emptive school closures to be effective, prolonged closure is required and it would be unclear when they could be re-opened. If there were still a large pool of susceptible students when schools are re-opened, there would be likely to be re-emergence of transmission in the community.

School closures may still be considered late in the outbreak in anticipation of a peak in infection rates, for a shorter period of time. Short term reactive school closures may also be warranted to allow cleaning and contact tracing to occur.

Should evidence change in relation to school closures then my advice to the sector, in collaboration with AHPPC, would of course change also.

Yours Sincerely,

Felix Patton, Principal

Leonie McGinley, Assistant Principal

[Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup, Victoria 3981](#)

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