

3rd August, 2020

School Community Letter

Dear parents and carers,

Yesterday, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, regional and rural Victoria will move to Stage 3 restrictions and **metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions** to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across the government, Catholic and independent sectors and across all metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect **from Wednesday 5 August**, following a **student free day on Tuesday 4 August**, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3.

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state.

There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community.

A summary of what the changes mean for our school is below.

METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

- On-site provision in specialist schools will only be available to children whose parents are permitted workers, and vulnerable children.
- The criteria for students that can attend on-site has changed as follows:
 - children whose parents are permitted workers. The Victorian Government will provide further advice about this over the coming days
 - vulnerable children in out of home care, children known to child protection and other agencies and children the school identifies as vulnerable
 - **children with a disability who also fit one of the above two categories.**

TIMELINE

- Monday 3 August, today is a 'normal' day of school under current arrangements, with students attending on site learning asked to take all their necessary learning materials home.
- Tomorrow, **Tuesday 4 August will be a student-free day** across Victoria to enable teachers to prepare for flexible and remote learning.
- Wednesday 5 August will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria.



STAFFING

- Schools will ensure sufficient staff are available for necessary on-site supervision.
- Staff not required for on-site supervision will work from home.

I will provide an update soon about arrangements for remote and flexible learning at our school. Please ensure the school has your current email address, mobile number and that you check our school website (<http://www.humevalley.vic.edu.au/>) regularly. HVS also has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hume.valley.school>), which has the most up to date notices; to join please visit the website.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Stay safe.

Kind regards,



Diane Bassett
Principal

