



31st July, 2020

Dear College Community,

Re: Face coverings

The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria, has announced that from 11.59 pm on Sunday 2nd August 2020, face coverings will be mandatory for all persons in Victoria when they are away from their home.

The use of face coverings, including cloth face coverings or surgical masks, will assist in providing an additional physical barrier between people and to help reduce community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) across all of Victoria.

All **staff** at St Mary of the Angels will be required to wear face coverings when at school from Monday 3rd August, 2020 to protect the health and safety of all students, staff and the wider College community.

Some limited exceptions apply to the use of face coverings for Teaching staff and Learning Support staff. The exceptions are as follows:

Teaching and Learning Support staff will **not** be required to wear a face covering when providing direct instruction and support to students in the classroom but will wear a face covering at all other times, including whilst undertaking yard duty.

Students are also required to wear a face covering when at school from Monday 3rd August 2020, unless an exemption applies. The exceptions are as follows:

- If you have a medical condition (medical certification required) that inhibits wearing a mask- including problems with breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition;
- If you are communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing;
- While doing strenuous physical exercise;
- While eating and drinking;
- Where health and safety guidelines cannot be met, as determined by the teacher.

Parents, guardians and carers are required to supply their child(ren) with an appropriate face covering that covers the nose and mouth. Appropriate face coverings include single use face masks (commonly called surgical masks), cloth face coverings made from three layers of a mix of breathable fabrics or face shields designed to cover the sides of the face and below the chin.

St Mary of the Angels College recognises the short time frame will make it difficult for all families to obtain a mask. With this in mind, the College has purchased a supply of disposable masks and will distribute **one mask** to all students and staff today in afternoon homeroom. This will ensure that all staff and students have a mask ready to wear for Monday 3rd August.

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Students and staff will also receive a small bottle of hand sanitiser today to ensure hygiene practices remain high. Whilst the College has put these measures in place for Monday, families will need to ensure that they arrange a mask most suitable for their child(ren) that can be worn for the foreseeable future.

Single use face coverings will only be provided by the College in circumstances where a student has forgotten to bring in a face covering, or their face covering becomes soiled or dirty.

Cloth (reusable) face coverings or surgical (single use) face masks can be purchased from retail outlets including chemists and hardware stores.

Personalised face coverings are permitted to be worn by students, including patterned or printed material. However, if a personalised face covering is deemed to be offensive, the student will be asked to remove, and possibly dispose of, the face covering. In these circumstances, a plain disposable face covering will be provided by the College to the student. The College reserves the right to determine what is appropriate and inappropriate with regard to uniform and appearance.

If a student refuses to wear a face covering, a member of staff will discuss the reasons with the student in the first instance, and an explanation provided to the student, in age-appropriate language, why a face covering is required.

To ensure that the health and safety of all students and staff can be maintained if a student continues to refuse to wear a face covering, parents, guardians or carers will be contacted requesting the immediate collection of their child(ren).


Parents, guardians and carers are encouraged to discuss the use of face covering with their child(ren) and reinforce the need to maintain physical distance where possible from other people, to wash and dry hands thoroughly and regularly, and cough and sneeze into a tissue or their elbow.

Parents, guardians and carers will also be required to wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up their child(ren) or if required to collect an unwell child(ren) from the school. Students will also be required to wear a face covering while travelling on the College bus system.

If you require clarification in relation to the use of face coverings at school or additional support, please contact the College or refer to the DHHS website.

A reminder for all our NSW families to provide the College with an updated border entry permit as they renew them.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Dainton
Acting Principal