



18 August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

I wish to thank our community for continuing to follow health advice regarding COVID-19, keeping unwell children at home and respecting changed protocols to parent-involved school events. This is continuing to be a challenging time for each of us as we face the uncertainty of what may occur should the situation in NSW deteriorate. The purpose of this letter is to provide further information regarding our College actions in relation to the recent NSW Public Health Order to all schools. The Chief Health Officer of New South Wales has recently written to schools outlining the details of the Order. NSW Health requires schools to:

- exclude students with even mild symptoms of COVID-19
- encourage immediate testing for any symptomatic child(ren)
- prohibit return to school for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 until a negative COVID test result has been reported
- ensure that adults, including parents, maintain physical distancing at all times
- ensure good hand hygiene at all times
- for activities that result in the mixing of students from schools from the local area (e.g. local inter-school sports competitions), develop and ensure compliance with a COVID safety plan based on the COVID safety plan template for community sport activities
- for local activities, limit spectators to one parent only, where parental supervision is required

Furthermore, the Chief Health Officer has stated that certain practices must cease altogether. These include:

- activities that result in the mixing of students from schools in different regions, such as sporting-related activities, drama and debating
- school-related group singing or chanting activities and use of wind instruments in groups
- school-related social activities (e.g. school formals, dinners or dances; graduation ceremonies; or parent engagement functions)
- school-related overnight events (e.g. retreats, camps, excursions) as there is increased risk of transmission of the virus in a residential type setting with shared facilities

In response to these updated health measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school communities, changes have been made to College events and routines effective from tomorrow, 19 August 2020. A list of the required changes is attached for your reference.

We regret that these measures need to be reintroduced but believe they will assist us to reduce the risk of community transmission, and will support schools to continue to deliver onsite learning.



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### **Responding to COVID-19 cases**

There is a clear plan in place for the College to respond to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community. We will work closely with NSW Health and AISNSW and will communicate with parents if a situation arises. Our College Executive team has recently taken the time to review our process for responding to a case of COVID-19 along with updating our risk management of the College's operations in light of COVID safe practices.

We continue to keep our community's health and safety at the forefront of our practices at EAC. It is important that we remain caring of one another while we continue to support our students through the remainder of the term.

Yours sincerely

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