



Emmanuel Anglican College Community Update: 9 August 2021

Dear students, staff and families,

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and flexibility in relation to the ongoing Covid19 challenge in our community.

The College continues to monitor the latest health advice from NSW Health, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), the NSW Department of Education and the Association of Independent Schools in order to develop a suitable response to minimise the impact on the community and in particular, students and their learning.

The current situation

A confirmed positive Covid19 case has been admitted to Lismore Base Hospital. They have been active in the community across the Lismore, Ballina and Byron region for several days. In response, NSW Health has placed the Local Government Areas of the Byron Shire, Richmond Valley, Lismore and Ballina into a 7 day lockdown provision in place from 6.00pm 9 August 2021 to 12.01am 17 August 2021.

Transition to Home Based Learning

The College will now begin the process of transition to Home Based Learning. Tomorrow, Tuesday 10 August, will be a Pupil Free Day as staff will prepare to move learning online. As a result, the College will be **closed to students from Kindergarten to Year 12**, however, there will be an emergency Vacation Care program operating from 8.30am to 4.30pm for Primary students of families of essential workers and for those that have no other care options for their children. If you would like your child to attend the emergency Vacation Care program, please email elc@eac.nsw.edu.au to book your child into the service.

Further information about the process for Home Based learning will be provided tomorrow but in summary:

- All Year 11 and 12 lessons will continue as Timetabled via Zoom
- Students in Year 7-10 will find work on their Google Classroom and a roster of Zoom Question and Answer Session will be distributed to students.
- Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 will access their work through their SeeSaw account. Year 6 can also access Google Classroom. Additional learning materials were sent home with Kindergarten and Year 1 today.

Supervision and After School Hours Care will resume on Wednesday 11 August 2021. Please be advised that as per the Health Order, students are only to attend school if their parents are essential workers and there are no other options for care. Therefore, if a parent was to be working from home, the expectation is that they will not send their child to school. I thank all our parents for your support of this expectation which is designed to minimise the risk of spread of the infection across the community.

The Early Learning Centre

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The Early Learning Centre will remain open for the children of essential workers and for those that do not have any other option for care. Again, I ask families to follow the health directive and keep your child at home during the lockdown unless you are an essential worker and have no other option for care. After College Hours Care will continue for Primary students, except for tomorrow, 10 August, which is a Pupil Free Day.

Virtual College Office

The College Office will transition to a virtual mode for the next 7 days. Contact can be made virtually by phone on 02 6681 5054 or email via enquiries@eac.nsw.edu.au

Supporting Year 12

We are particularly mindful of the needs of our Year 12 students as they prepare for their HSC examinations. NESA has moved back all of the major HSC submission and examination dates to give all students additional time to complete work and prepare for their examinations.

With the lockdown scheduled to end next Tuesday 17 August, we plan to continue with the HSC Trial Examinations as scheduled.

Further information and direction will be provide to Year 12 and their families this week.

Testing Venues in our Region

Accompanying this update is a list of Covid Testing venues in our Region. If you or a member of your family has any symptoms, no matter how mild, please get a Covid Test and isolate until you have received a negative result.

I also actively encourage all of those that are eligible to receive a Covid19 vaccine to make a booking and get vaccinated.

General health advice

- The latest NSW Health advice can be found <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>
- Any student or staff with cold and flu like symptoms or respiratory illness, no matter how mild, are to stay home, get a Covid test and seek medical advice as required.
- Anyone who has visited a known hotspot area in the last 14 days, have been in a nominated contact or exposure site or have been a close or casual contact of a known case are required to self isolate for 14 days and to get a COVID 19 test.

Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to navigate these uncertain times together.

Robert Tobias
Principal