



Teamwork • Respect • Honesty • Care

Goornong Primary School

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Tuesday 19th July, 2022

Dear Parents,

UPDATED FACE MASK INFORMATION

Last night, the Department of Education sent communication to schools regarding updated face mask expectations.

It is strongly recommended by the Victorian Department of Health that face masks are worn in indoor settings. This is because the wearing of masks is effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

As such, it is the Education Department's expectation that, through to the end of winter, students aged 8 and over, and staff, will wear masks when in class, except where removing a mask is necessary for clear communication or when a particular activity requires the removal of a mask. Masks are not required to be worn outdoors but can be worn when physical distancing is not possible.

Wearing masks is a simple step we can all take this winter to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases and ensure our schools are as safe as possible. Schools are not required or expected to sanction students or staff who do not meet this expectation.

I ask that you please find over the page a letter from the Department of Education, Independent Schools Victoria and the Catholic Education Commission, which communicates this collective expectation and effort to the communities of all school sectors.

I also wish to take this opportunity to remind our school community that face masks are mandatory for those aged 8 and over for those who are household contacts of a confirmed Covid-19 case when attending school.

Whilst the school has a supply of disposable face masks available for students and staff to use, they are welcome to bring a mask/masks from home to use if they wish.

I encourage parents to talk with your child about this new face mask information. I wish to thank our school community for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Cox

Principal

Dear parents and carers

We are writing to you as parents/carers of a child or children in government, Catholic and independent schools across Victoria.

The Victorian Department of Health strongly recommends that face masks are worn in indoor settings.

As a result, we are asking all students aged 8 and over and all staff in all schools across Victoria to wear masks when in class (except where removing a mask is necessary for clear communication) from now to the end of winter.

Students won't be required or expected to wear masks when outdoors, and this expectation won't stop student participation in the full range of school activities, including music, sport and performances.

We are asking for your support in explaining to your child or children the importance of this simple step that will help keep our schools as safe as possible.

We also ask that you make sure your child (or children) takes a mask to school (and wears it if they are travelling on public transport) or collects a mask when they arrive at school.

We all appreciate how important it is for students to be back at school. This action will help make sure as many students and staff as possible are protected from COVID and other winter illness.

Thank for your help with this collective effort to keep our communities safe and healthy.



Dr David Howes
Deputy Secretary

Victorian Department of
Education and Training



Michelle Green
Chief Executive

Independent Schools
Victoria



Jim Miles
Executive Director

Catholic Education
Commission of Victoria