



Dandenong North Primary School

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What Stage 4 COVID – 19 Restrictions mean for Dandenong North Primary School

The Victorian Government has declared a State of Disaster for Victoria. Floods, Bushfires and Drought have been the cause of Disaster declarations in the past, but this time it is to try to prevent the spread of the COVID – 19 pandemic within Victoria. The Chief Health Officer has identified workplace virus transmissions as one of the “hotspots” for the high number of Victorian cases in recent weeks. The Stage 4 restrictions are designed to limit workplace gatherings other than for essential services.

The advice of the Chief Health Officer is that schools remain safe places for staff and students providing we manage the numbers of staff and students who are moving to and from the school. Stage 4 for us is about reducing the movement of students and families.

The change that will come into effect on Monday 3rd August is:

- Students attending on-site whose parents are not PERMITTED WORKERS will be given all the necessary learning materials for remote learning as they will not be able to return to school until restrictions have been lifted. We will confirm with parents who are PERMITTED WORKERS that their children will be able to continue attending school. We will advise parents who no longer qualify that their children will not be able to continue attending school.

The change that will come into effect on Tuesday 4th August is:

- No students will attend school on Tuesday as it has been declared a student-free day for planning purposes.

Changes that will come into effect on Wednesday 5th August are:

- Children whose parents are PERMITTED WORKERS in essential jobs will be able to attend on-site at school.
- Children who have Individual Learning Plans that were in place prior to the commencement of Term 3.
- Teachers and support staff who are not required for on-site supervision responsibilities will be working from home.
- These changes will continue until the end of Term 3.

We will continue to provide support for remote learning now, with the added advantage of iPads and laptops having been provided to those who required them. We will continue to provide communication updates as often as possible, and as quickly as possible. All of the staff at Dandenong North Primary School are worried about the effect of these necessary restrictions on our wonderful students and we are saddened for all of us that we find ourselves in this situation. 2020 has been an awful year for our students – particularly the Prep students who lost a lot of forward-momentum in the critical area of learning to read. We will be considering how we might provide an option to help students overcome any setbacks. We are also concerned for our Year 6 students who missed so many things that create memories of their last year at primary school. When we finally get back to school we will be making a very special effort to make sure that memories will be created for our Year six students, especially.

I regret having to provide this very upsetting advice and I just hope that we will have you understanding and support.

Kevin Mackay
Principal