



Pentland Primary School N^o. 5369

HALLETT'S WAY, BACCHUS MARSH, VICTORIA 3340
P O Box 694, BACCHUS MARSH, VICTORIA 3340

TELEPHONE : (03) 5367 6080 FACSIMILE : (03) 5367 4117

E-MAIL : PENTLAND.PS@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU

WWW.PENTLANDPS.VIC.EDU.AU

Principal : Mr Andrew Harrison

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Our school is currently managing 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases. These cases have all been from the Foundation – Grade 2 cohort.

I would like to reassure you that we took immediate action as soon as we became aware of the situation and sought advice from the Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Department of Health (DH).

We have contacted all primary close contacts.

Our school will remain open and continue operating in line with the current advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

All other students and staff will continue with face-to-face learning.

All impacted areas have had a deep clean and additional cleaning protocols remain in place as per the current DET directives.

The phone lines in our office have been consistently busy with non-urgent enquiries. We still welcome any questions that you all may have but if it is not of an urgent matter, please consider emailing us and we will answer your enquiry as soon as possible. This will allow us the time to put together communications for the wider school community and answer many of your questions.

There has also been a lot of misinformation regarding our outbreak placed on social media. This just creates more tension and confusion amongst our community and is not helpful at all. Please be assured that all notifications of positive cases have been dealt with immediately, regardless of when we were advised.

We are already implemented some changes to our school operations, with a major focus on separating cohorts within the school:

- Our spelling program will be suspended until Friday 19th November.
- Our Breakfast Club program will be suspended until Friday 19th November.
- The Art Show WILL go ahead this week, we will provide more details when we can.
- Assemblies will continue to be held via WEBex.
- We will be requesting students sanitise at the entrance gates to school on arrival and we will continue to encourage regular hand washing and/or sanitising throughout the day. Likewise, surfaces will continue to be wiped down on a regular basis.
- The wearing of masks at school by our eligible students has improved. We would like to re-iterate how important it is to follow the Chief Health Officer's advice when it comes to minimising the spread of COVID-19. This advice includes mandatory mask-wearing for students in Grades 3-6 and recommended mask-wearing for students in Foundation – Grade 2.
- We will continue to send home children that display even mild cold and flu symptoms. We appreciate everyone's support with this initiative.
- By working together and following the health advice given to us, we can get on top of this current outbreak, so we thank you for your co-operation in advance.

If you or anyone in your family develops even the mildest of symptoms, please get tested.

If you are contacted and advised that you or your child is a potential PCC, it is advised that you or your child get a COVID test and limit your/their movements outside of the home.

This means that, until you hear further from me or the Department of Health or a Local Public Health Unit (DH/LPHU), you are advised to only leave home for brief periods for necessary activities, such as:

- caregiving to family members when no alternative is available
- necessary medical appointments where no alternative is available (such as telehealth)

DH/LPHU will then contact PCCs directly to interview them and advise if there are any changes to their PCC status. These calls or text messages can come from private or unknown numbers. Please answer these calls or follow text message advice if you receive a call or text message. If confirmed, DH/LPHU will send an SMS to the PCCs advising them of their quarantine, testing and release dates (this may take some days).

PCCs must quarantine at home and can end their quarantine period as follows:

- For 14 days of quarantine (high risk exposure, unvaccinated), you must quarantine at home until you receive a negative result from a PCR test taken no sooner than day 13 of your quarantine period.
- For 7 days of quarantine (high risk exposure, vaccinated), you must quarantine at home until you receive a negative result from a PCR test taken on day six of your quarantine period.

DH will not contact you to end your quarantine: your negative test result is proof that you have completed your quarantine period.

A negative result from a rapid antigen test is not sufficient for release from quarantine.

The rest of your family does not need to stay at home at this stage.

If you or anyone in your family develops even the mildest of symptoms, please get tested.

Pentland Primary School has not been a part of the rapid antigen testing pilot that was conducted last week. Moving forward, schools must opt in to the rapid antigen testing program. We will opt in to the program in 2022.

If you have questions about what this means for our school, please call the Department of Education and Training COVID-19 hotline on **1800 338 663**, available 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and 10am to 3pm Saturday and Sunday.

If you are concerned you have COVID-19 you can call the DH COVID-19 hotline on **1800 675 398**, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For school information in languages other than English, call TIS National on **131 450**. Please ask them to call the DET COVID-19 hotline on **1800 338 663** and they will help interpret. For health advice in languages other than English, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-coronavirus-covid-19.

I would like to thank the entire school community for your support during this time. If you would like further information on the processes and protocols surrounding positive cases, please refer back to the document titled 'General COVID-19 Information' that was posted on Seesaw and our website last week.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Harrison
Principal
Pentland Primary School