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Sunday 24 October 2021

Permitted school activities and return to onsite learning

Dear colleagues

The Victorian Government has announced the easing of restrictions given the early achievement of the 80 per cent vaccination target, from 6pm Friday 29 October.

This means that all metropolitan Melbourne year levels will return to full-time onsite learning from Monday 1 November, joining regional Victorian students, who returned to full-time onsite learning on Friday 22 October.

All schools will be able to recommence a range of activities, consistent with community settings and school vaccination requirements. This means that from Monday 1 November schools will be able to:

- hold graduations and other assemblies consistent with community density limits
- travel across Victoria for camps and excursions
- resume interschool activities such as sport and debating
- deliver the full range of curriculum programs, including music and performing arts
- conduct transition programs for kinder students beginning Prep in 2022 and Grade 6 students transitioning to Year 7 in 2022 (further detail will be included in the updated School Operations Guide on Tuesday 26 October)
- have a range of visitors onsite, including photographers, guest speakers and MPs (further detail will be included in the updated School Operations Guide on Tuesday 26 October).

Schools in metropolitan Melbourne that may have planned a Curriculum Day for Monday 1 November are requested, wherever possible, to reschedule that Curriculum Day to later in the year to support the early return of all students to onsite learning. This may not be possible in all cases, but schools in this situation are asked to make every effort to accommodate the earlier return to onsite learning.

Minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools

It is imperative that as schools return to onsite learning, the requirements that have been put in place to

minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools are strictly followed, with a focus on the three Vs of Vaccination, Ventilation and Vital COVIDSafe steps.

These are detailed in the current [School Operations Guide](#) and will be reflected in the updated School Operations Guide that will be available from Tuesday 26 October. They include:

- ensuring any workers and visitors onsite meet the current vaccination requirements
- taking all steps possible to maximise external air flow and good ventilation
- following the COVIDSafe steps of:
 - wearing face masks
 - implementing staggered start, finish and break times to reduce congestion and mixing of student cohorts
 - maintaining physical distancing between staff and, where possible, students
 - maintaining strong hygiene practices.

Metropolitan schools

Ahead of students resuming full-time onsite learning from Monday 1 November, schools will continue to provide access to onsite learning to classes not yet onsite, in line with the [staged reopening plan](#).

Students who were previously eligible for onsite supervision and care as children of authorised workers or children experiencing vulnerability can continue attending onsite learning.

While authorised worker permits are no longer required for onsite supervision and care, it should still be provided for those who were previously considered authorised workers until all year levels are back onsite.

[A parent letter](#) is available for you to communicate these changes to your school community.

Travel between regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne

A permit will no longer be required for staff and students moving between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria for the purpose of permitted education. Additionally, there is no longer a testing requirement for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated travelling between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

These changes mean an early end to the necessary disruptions and challenges of the staggered return to onsite learning.

Thank you for your exceptional leadership in supporting your school communities through this transition back to full onsite learning across the state. I know that this, together with the resumption of the full range of activities, will be strongly welcomed by our students, families/carers and staff.

I will host an optional Webex briefing tomorrow (Monday 25 October) at 4.00pm to talk through these

changes.

David Howes

Deputy Secretary

Schools and Regional Services

Get informed and get vaccinated



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Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne



The department respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.

