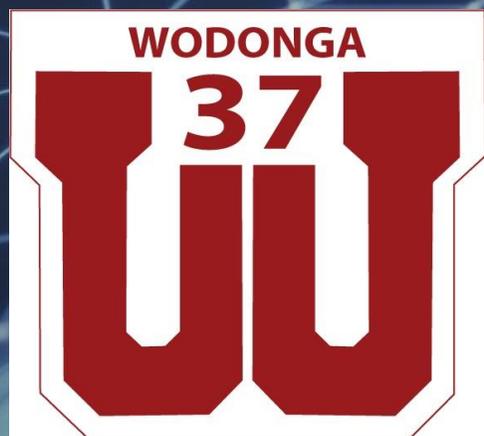


Communicating our COVID 19 Return to School Policy

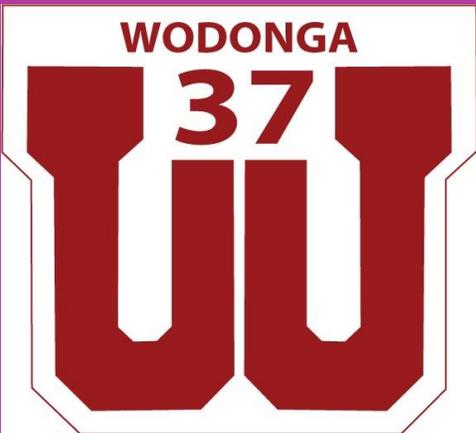
Wodonga Primary School



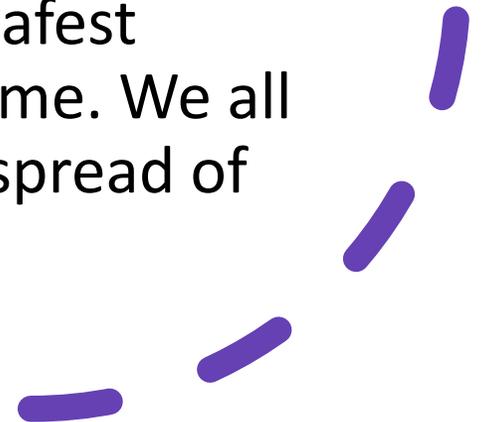
COVID-19 Return to School Policy

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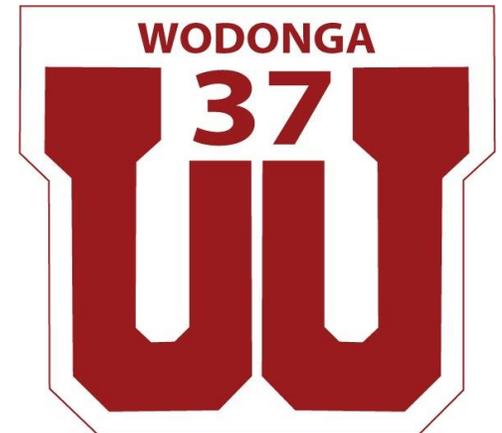
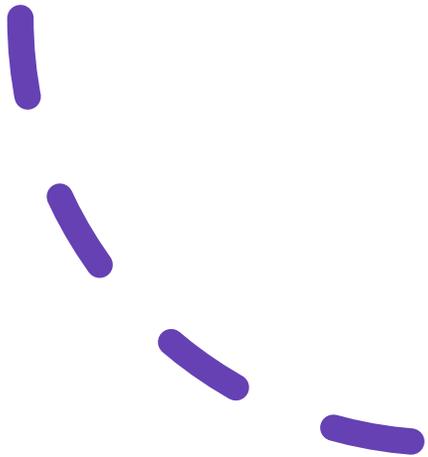


- The purpose of this presentation is to outline **how Wodonga Primary School will be managing risk** relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19) during key interactions between students, parents and staff during the return to school in Term 2, 2020.
- Wodonga Primary School is committed to providing a safe learning and working environment for our students and staff. We ask for the whole school community to follow this policy to enable us to provide the safest possible environment during this time. We all have a role to play in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Victoria.



Scope

- This policy applies to everyone in the Wodonga Primary School community. This includes all members of staff (principals, teachers and education support staff), all parents/carers who interact with the school and all students. It also includes visitors to the school.



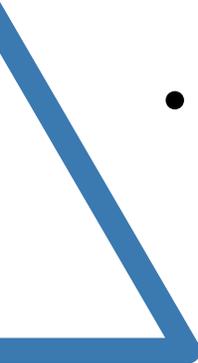
Attendance on-site

The Department of Education and Training (DET) advises that:

- *Perhaps the most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure that any unwell staff, children and young people remain at home.*
- *While the risk of transmission of the virus is very low, staff or students most at risk of severe illness should individually assess appropriateness for onsite attendance at this time with support from their medical practitioner.*
- *As the main risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school environment is between adults, it is important that visitors to school grounds are limited to those delivering or supporting essential school services and operations.*

This means that at our school:

- All unwell staff and students **must** stay home.
- Parents/carers of students with complex medical needs (including those with compromised immune systems), should seek advice from the student's medical practitioner to support decision-making about whether on-site education is suitable, noting that this advice may change depending on the status of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Victoria. This is in line with the [DET Health Care Needs](#) policy.
- Visitors to school grounds will be limited to those delivering or supporting essential school services and operations (e.g. student health and wellbeing services, specialist curriculum programs, maintenance workers).
- We ask that any parents/carers wishing to discuss any matters with a staff member to first use the options of either a phone call, or email via Compass. If a face-to face meeting is needed, it must meet the physical distancing requirements of 1.5m between adults. If a meeting is required, the scheduling will be coordinated by the Principals.

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- There will be no parent volunteers at this time.
 - Interschool Sports are cancelled until further notice.
 - All interschool activities that involve onsite attendance by students from other schools will either take place virtually or will be cancelled.
 - School assemblies, excursions, camps and other non-essential large gatherings will be postponed. This includes Wodonga District Arts Festival, end of term assemblies and our weekly Monday morning assembly.
 - WPS 5/6 Sport and 3/4 Sport etc will be in year level groups only. Mr Maxworthy will communicate the plans to staff.

School arrival and departure

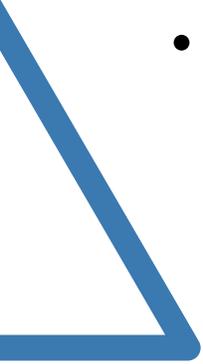
As the main risk of introducing coronavirus (COVID-19) to the school environment is from adults, close proximity between adult members of the school community should be avoided, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up.

This means that at our school:

- We ask staff and parents/carers to observe physical distancing measures by not congregating in areas around the school.
- We are not using the Brockley street pedestrian gate due in order not to create any form of congestion around Central Medical Group which now includes a “Respiratory Response Clinic” on that site.



To minimise interaction of students and adults within the school and at entry points we:

- Our school encourages physical distancing and minimise adult/student interactions.
 - Our community has a coordinated approach in regards to the drop off and pick up points around our school. This was done through the school newsletter.
 - All entry points have our school's coordinated approach.
 - Dots at the school gate/s to encourage spacing between adults
 - We encourage non-contact greetings
 - We ask that parents do not to linger while picking up or dropping off students
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Hygiene

DET advises that: *Everyone can protect themselves and prevent the spread of coronavirus by continuing effective hand hygiene.*

At our school:

- All staff and students will undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet. This will be directed or supervised by staff where required.
- Students **must bring their own water bottles** to school for use (and refilling). Students will not drink directly from drinking fountains at this time.
- Staff and students are reminded to clean their mobile phones regularly.
- Sharing of food is not permitted.

Specific arrangements for teaching and learning environments and break times

DET advises that:

- *Maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 metres will not always be practical in education settings. Physical distancing is most important between adults.*
- *Reducing mixing between different cohorts (either classes or year levels) is recommended as a precautionary measure to minimise risk of spread of transmission and aid containment in the rare event of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) on-site.*

At our school we will:

- Have mobile hand sanitizers throughout the school
- Keep windows and doors open (a little) to promote fresh air flow indoors
- Staff have multiple areas for their breaks including the Staff room, PLC and Library.
- Staff will maintain physical distancing as much as practical when working in a classroom together

School offices and staff facilities

DET advises that: *As the greatest risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school environment is between adults, close proximity between staff will be avoided where possible and especially in offices and staff rooms.*

At our school we will:

- Plan split PLT and meetings
- Continue to use Webex meetings where possible/necessary
- In line with other workplaces across Victoria, we will remind staff to maintain physical distancing from each other as much as possible in the reception, staff room and offices.

Cleaning and facilities management

DET advises that:

- *Environmental cleaning, coupled with regular hand hygiene, remains important to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission.*

At our school we will:

- Continue extension of routine environmental cleaning, including progressive cleaning throughout the day to ensure that risks of transmission are reduced for high-touch services.
- Provide plastic zip lock bags for returning stationery.
- Computer wipes in all classrooms
- We will be practicing hand hygiene immediately before and after use of shared equipment

Sport and recreation

DET advises that: *In line with community advice, reasonable precautions are still advised to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in the context of sport and recreation.*

- Playground equipment can be used. However, students will be directed to practice hand hygiene before and after use. This will be completed at the classroom door, administered/supervised by the teachers.
- Swimming and aquatic facilities will not be used in Term 2.
- We will encourage non-contact sports at this time. Hand hygiene will be practiced before and after use of any sporting equipment.

Provision of routine care and first aid

DET advises that: *Physical distancing is not practical when providing direct care. In this situation standard precautions, including hand hygiene, are important for infection control.*

At our school:

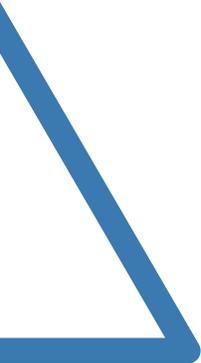
- Hand hygiene will be practiced before and after performing routine care or first aid.
- Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for example face masks, is not required to provide routine care or first aid for students who are well, unless such precautions are usually adopted in the routine care of an individual student.

Management of an unwell student or staff member

DET advises that: *It is important that any staff member or student who becomes unwell while at school returns home. While it is unlikely that a staff member or student who is unwell with flu-like symptoms will have coronavirus (COVID-19) there are some sensible steps schools can take while a student awaits collection by a parent or carer as a precaution.*

This means that at our school:

- Staff and students experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19), such as fever, cough or sore throat, will be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible. Urgent medical attention will be sought where needed. Unwell students will not be permitted to travel home unsupervised.
- Where staff or students are experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus, we will ensure hand hygiene, physical distancing and (where possible) use of a face mask. See DET [guidance for the use of Personal Protective Equipment in education](#).

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- Health care plans, where relevant, should be updated to provide additional advice on monitoring and identification of the unwell child in the context of coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - If a staff member is unsure whether a student is unwell in the first instance we will contact the parent/carer to discuss any concerns about the health status of the student, and we will take a precautionary approach, requesting the parent/carer to collect their child if concerns remain. A trained staff member may take the temperature of the student, where appropriate, to support decision-making. Gloves will be worn for the purpose of taking a temperature. Our school is purchasing a temperature gun.
 - Staff or students experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19) should be encouraged to seek the advice of their healthcare professional who can advise on next steps. A medical certificate is not required to return to school after a period of illness, however staff and students should not return until symptoms resolve.
 - If a student spreads droplets (for example by sneezing, coughing or vomiting), surfaces will be immediately cleaned with disinfectant wipes.

Managing a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19

DET has comprehensive procedures in place with the Department of Health and Human Services to manage suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools.

- We will contact the Department of Health and Human Services on 1300 651 160 to discuss what to do next if a student or staff member:
 - is a confirmed case
 - has been in close contact with a confirmed case
- We will inform the Department by making an [IRIS incident alert](#).

DHHS defines 'close contact' as someone who has either:

- had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shared a closed space for more than two hours with someone who is a confirmed case.