



# COPACABANA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Pueblo Street, Copacabana NSW 2251  
Phone: (02) 4382 1766  
Fax: (02) 4381 1427

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department of Education has re-designed a managed return to school procedure. Phase I has been extremely successful in minimising the number of students on site whilst providing the opportunity for students to experience at least one day of face to face teaching with their teachers and peers. I wish to thank our school community for your committed support for the “managed return to school” planning. We are appreciative of the high level of community trust placed in us to safely manage the return of our students and for the cooperation of our families in supporting our school planning to date.

The NSW Premier, Mrs Gladys Berejiklian has announced this week that schools will be returning to full-time face to face teaching as of **Week 5**, starting **Monday 25 May**. This week’s announcement will be a great relief to many families and students. However, we know that every student and every family is unique and there may be many contrasting views and opinions on this week’s announcement.

Following this week’s announcement, I caution families with a reminder that we will not be returning to school as normal, just yet. Whilst all current health advice confirms that our schools are safe for students, the NSW Premier and the NSW Minister for Education indicated that there will continue to be some restrictions relating to school operation. All school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), NSW Health guidelines and the advice received from the NSW Department of Education. The key features are outlined:

School students do not need to follow physical distancing guidelines **but** should continue to follow good hygiene practices including:

- Regularly washing hands
- Avoiding sharing drinks or food. Children are to bring their own packed lunches and drink bottles.
- Coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately.
- Enhanced cleaning – additional cleaning in line with AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Targeted areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways and movement areas. There will also be additional cleaning of toilets.
- Additional health supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper and disinfectant wipes.

#### Other measures:

- There will be no assemblies or large group activities.
- Parents, volunteers and visitors will not be allowed on school site, without prior communication or approval from the school office.
- Parents must continue to abide by state- mandated guidelines related to social distancing. This includes during drop off and pick up times.
- No excursions
- No inter-school activities such as sport, debating



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However, some aspects of schooling will feel more “normal”, including:

- The “single unit of remote learning” will no longer continue and teachers will return to supporting learners in a face-to face classroom environment.
- Guidelines relating to students applying social distancing expectations at school may now be lifted.
- The playground will be open for play as normal and during school hours only.
- There will be PE and fitness activities provided for students at school (but no inter-school competitions).
- Recess and lunch breaks will return to normal following health advice that there are very low transmission rates between children.

It is our intention to see teachers continue to remind students about the benefits of maintaining safe social distances. Effective hygiene practices will remain in place. Teachers will remain vigilant ensuring effective hygiene practices are taught, reinforced and maintained for all students across all school settings.

## School attendance

All students should be at school unless:

- They have a medical certificate which states they are unable to return due to an ongoing medical condition.
- They are currently unwell.

Students who have a medical certificate to stay at home will be supported to learn from home in line with regular procedures if they are able to. These regular procedures are different to what was offered during the learning from home period. If you require work to be provided to your child whilst they are at home due to an underlying health condition, please contact your child’s teacher.

Please note, students who live with a family member in one of the categories identified as being ‘at increased risk’ by the AHPPC, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise in writing.

If your child is unwell, do not send them to school. If they are unwell at school you, or your nominated emergency contact, will need to collect your child immediately. Please make sure your contact details are up to date.

If a student is absent without a medical reason for more than three days, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and followed up by the school.

## Reporting and assessment

An abridged version of our traditional school reports are being formulated and will be distributed in Term 3 Week 2. This will give teachers additional time to assess student learning on their return to school.

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Email: [copacabana-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:copacabana-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



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## **Drop off and Pick-up**

We ask that you do not enter the school grounds for drop off and pick up. If this is the case we ask that you collect your child/ children and leave immediately. We ask that parents maintain social distancing guidelines by avoiding gathering outside of school gates. We will have staff at the front and back gates in the morning when you drop your child/children off and when you collect them in the afternoon. School buses will operate as normal.

We look forward to having all students return to school next week. Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher and if you have any concerns or questions don't hesitate to contact us via phone or email.

We thank you again for working so closely with us to keep all students, staff and community members safe.

Kind regards,

Mary Hunt

Principal

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