

# **COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS FOR BIG HILL PS, AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> 2020**

Dear parents, carers, students and staff,

Earlier today, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, regional and rural Victoria will move to Stage 3 restrictions and metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across the government, Catholic and independent sectors and across all metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from Wednesday 5 August, following a **student free day on Tuesday 4 August**, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3.

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state.

There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community.

A summary of what the changes mean for rural/regional schools is below.

## **RURAL AND REGIONAL VICTORIA**

### **PREP TO YEAR 6**

- Prep to Year 6 students will move to remote and flexible learning. All children who can learn from home, must learn from home. We anticipate few children requiring onsite supervision – which will ensure our children, families and staff are as safe as possible
- On-site supervision in rural and regional Victoria will be available to:
  - Children whose parents cannot work from home, are unable to make other arrangements (eg. Juggling shifts, working different days etc.), organise suitable care with close family etc.
  - Vulnerable children – classed as a child who may be at more risk staying home each day

### **TIMELINE**

- **Monday 3 August** will be a 'normal' day of school under current arrangements, with students attending on site learning asked to take all their necessary learning materials home.
- **Tuesday 4 August** will be a **student-free day** across Victoria to enable teachers, especially in rural and regional Victoria, to prepare for flexible and remote learning.
- **Wednesday 5 August** will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria. This is a day ahead of the statewide introduction of the Stage 3 restrictions in rural and regional Victoria, but will provide for a smooth transition and will enable as much continuity of learning as possible. We will have our Remote Learning Platforms active from this date for the great majority to work from home.

### **STAFFING**

- Schools will ensure sufficient staff are available for necessary on site supervision

- Staff not required for on site supervision will work from home, as it is the safer option

I will provide an update soon about arrangements for remote and flexible learning at our school, including information on learning platforms for each Unit, eligibility for onsite supervision and other school operations, such as our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

***Matt Pearce***

PRINCIPAL