



"Learning For Life"

P O Box 5  
NATHALIA VIC 3638

Phone: 03 5866 2677

Fax: 03 5866 2749

E-mail: [nathalia.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:nathalia.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I've been on a video conference with the Deputy Secretary of Regional Services for the Department of Education and a number of Melbourne school Principals this morning. People in Melbourne have been wearing masks for a while now, so I've been able to get some great advice. Below is some more information to clarify who will and won't need to wear a mask and when from 11.59pm, Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup>;

**Who doesn't need to wear a mask?**

- Primary students, (Prep to Year 6).
- Teachers when giving instructions to the class.
- Students when running in Physical Education classes.
- All students/staff will obviously need to remove their mask whilst eating and drinking.

**Who needs to wear a mask?**

- Secondary students, (Year 7 to Year 12) to and from school, at school and outside the family home.
- All school staff to and from school, at school and outside the family home.
- All adults and children above 12 years of age when outside the family home.

**What about students at the 5-8 Campus?**

- The Primary and Secondary rule applies, P-6 don't and 7-12 do need to wear masks.

**Can my child wear a mask if they aren't in the Secondary Years?**

- All students can wear a mask, students in Year 7-12 must wear a mask but we will definitely support students in the Primary Years to wear a mask if parents would like them to or students themselves would like to.

**As a parent do I need to wear a mask?**

- Adults and children aged above 12 years of age must wear a mask in public.

**If I have medical condition do I need to wear a mask?**

Please refer to this website for information, the link to further information from DHHS has not been updated to include the whole state as yet but this will occur in the coming days;

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/Pages/face-coverings-schools.aspx>

**What will happen if my child is supposed to wear a mask and they don't?**

- If your child is in Year 7-Year 12 and is not wearing a mask
  1. The student will be removed from the classroom, unless they have a medical condition.
  2. Parents will be contacted and asked to provide a mask for their child to enable them to re-enter the classroom.

**As a parent, do I need to supply masks for my children to attend school?**

- Parents are required to supply a mask for their children to wear at school if in Year 7-Year 12 and outside of the family home if above 12 years of age.

**What if I cannot source a face mask?**

- There are a number of options provided to source face masks listed in this information and it is the responsibility of parents to provide their children with face masks if in Year 7-Year 12.
- For a very limited number of children the school may have access to a small number of face masks for families who are unable to source their own. Face masks are extremely limited due to the existing situation in Melbourne and Mitchell Shire. Please check the next section on how to create your own face mask.

**Where can I get advice on the appropriate masks to source for my children?**

Please refer to the recommendations from DHHS;

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-coverings-covid-19#how-can-i-make-a-cloth-mask>

[https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202007/Design%20and%20preparation%20of%20cloth%20mask\\_0.pdf](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202007/Design%20and%20preparation%20of%20cloth%20mask_0.pdf)

**What if my child/ren travel on a school bus?**

- All drivers will be required to wear masks from Monday 3 August 2020
- All students except children under 12 or with permissible health conditions will be required to wear masks from Monday 3 August 2020
- Drivers are not to check or enforce the use of masks and they cannot refuse travel for any one not wearing a mask. This is up to the Police to enforce.
- Drivers may remind students that if police board the bus they may issue \$200 fines to students (over 12) not wearing masks, and may also note students who are not wearing masks and inform the Principal or School bus coordinator.

Yours sincerely,



Chris McCallum  
Principal