



ST JOSEPH'S  
COLLEGE MILDURA

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*From the desk of the Principal*

19 July 2022

Dear St Joseph's College families

I am writing regarding the recent announcements by the Victorian government about public health measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses, especially influenza, throughout the remainder of the winter season.

### **FACE MASKS**

It is strongly recommended by the Department of Health that face masks are worn in indoor settings, with face masks mandatory for those aged 8 and over who are household contacts and attending school. This is because wearing masks is effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

In practice, this means that the Victorian Government is recommending that, through to the end of winter, students aged 8 and over and staff will wear masks when in class, except where removing a mask is necessary for clear communication or when a particular activity requires the removal of a mask.

Masks are not required to be worn outdoors but can be worn when physical distancing is not possible. This recommendation should not constrain student participation in the full range of school activities, including music, sport, and performances.

We understand that parents and carers will play an important role in supporting this expectation. A short letter is attached, signed by each of the three school sectors (Catholic, government and independent), that explains this is a consistent recommendation across all schools in Victoria this winter.

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our college safe.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Marg Blythman**  
Principal

Dear parents and carers

We are writing to you as parents/carers of a child or children in government, Catholic and independent schools across Victoria.

The Victorian Department of Health strongly recommends that face masks are worn in indoor settings.

As a result, we are asking all students aged 8 and over and all staff in all schools across Victoria to wear masks when in class (except where removing a mask is necessary for clear communication) from now to the end of winter.

Students won't be required or expected to wear masks when outdoors, and this expectation won't stop student participation in the full range of school activities, including music, sport and performances.

We are asking for your support in explaining to your child or children the importance of this simple step that will help keep our schools as safe as possible.

We also ask that you make sure your child (or children) takes a mask to school (and wears it if they are travelling on public transport) or collects a mask when they arrive at school.

We all appreciate how important it is for students to be back at school. This action will help make sure as many students and staff as possible are protected from COVID and other winter illness.

Thank for your help with this collective effort to keep our communities safe and healthy.



**Dr David Howes**  
Deputy Secretary

Victorian Department of  
Education and Training



**Michelle Green**  
Chief Executive

Independent Schools  
Victoria



**Jim Miles**  
Executive Director

Catholic Education  
Commission of Victoria