



27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Emmaus families and friends

**RE: Mask wearing**

Further to my letter yesterday outlining arrangements for the return to school tomorrow (Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July), the following additional information regarding the wearing of masks has been released today.

*“Professor Spurrier has advised that due to the “biological nature of the virus combined with human behaviour, there is considered a real risk of further COVID-19 transmission in the South Australian community” with the New South Wales outbreak also remaining a serious and ongoing concern. A key protection that allows South Australians to return to our normal daily activities while these risks remain is the use of face masks. When the lockdown period ends at 12.01am Wednesday, 29 July 2021, masks will be required in a range of settings including all indoor public areas.”*

Requirements in relation to masks wearing specific for schools from tomorrow includes:

- All students in Year 8 and above MUST carry a compliant mask with them at ALL TIMES and wear it (appropriately):
  - o When indoors (such as class rooms / corridors etc)
  - o On a bus (public or Emmaus bus)
  - o When congregating outdoors (such as at the canteen)
  - o At the direction of their teachers
- School staff are also required to wear masks under the same circumstances as above with an exception when they are engaged in teaching or with students.
- All visitors to a school / ELC site must wear a mask.
- Students in Year 7 and below are certainly welcome to wear a mask if it is their desire, but not a requirement.

There are certain exceptions regarding the wearing of masks that teachers will advise students at the relevant time including for example:

- When students are actively engaged in certain PE or Music class activities (playing a wind instrument for example).
- When outside (not in a non-congested area) but must still have masks physically in their possession at all times.
- If a medical condition or disability exists that directly relates to the wearing of a mask (which would usually be in association with a medical directive already on school file or to be supplied).

Students are encouraged to bring their own appropriate mask to school with them from home each day from tomorrow if they are available to them (to suit individual preferences), however masks are also available at the College (including on College buses) for those who do not have access to them yet at home.

Can I please ask all parents of children in Year 8 and above to discuss the requirements with them before tomorrow morning to ensure they are very clear that this is a Government directive that their teachers are required to enforce while they are at school. It is my hope and prayer that such a matter does not become a repetitive point of challenge between teachers and their students where relationships are placed under strain. This is not the ‘Emmaus Way’ we would all seek. I have asked teachers to be polite and respectful in offering ample reminders during the day, however it is important that



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students also do their bit and willingly follow the direction of their teachers. We are seeking to use situations like this to unite and build culture as we all work together for the 'greater-good'.

Thank you for your continued support as we welcome students back to face to face learning.

Blessings,

**Andrew Linke**  
*Principal*