

25 June 2020

Dear Emmaus Families and Friends

Step 3 COVID-19 Restriction Easing arrangements at Emmaus Christian College

I write to share with you details of Emmaus' transition to Step 3 COVID-19 Restriction Easing and what this will mean for you and your children. The current spike in positive cases in Victoria is a reminder of the need for constant vigilance in this area and the need for a careful, conservative and medically based approach by the College. Notwithstanding the personal health implications, a positive test result within the Emmaus community would additionally result in significant educational disruption for our children (back to the 'remote-learning' agenda), something we have strongly guarded against throughout this pandemic. As such it remains my intention to enter this next stage of easing with great caution.

Due to continuing low infection rates in South Australia general state based Stage 3 Restriction Easing initially planned to commence on Friday 3 July have been brought forward 5 days to Monday 29 June (next Monday). This however is not a 'blanket' shift, but a somewhat confusing blend of various easing measures changing almost daily representing multiple inconsistencies. By way of this correspondence my intention is to give you clarity and certainty from Emmaus' perspective. As such, irrespective what other organisations (and even other schools) may or may not be doing next week the below applies for Emmaus.

Emmaus will conclude Term 2 under the current Step 2 Restriction Easing Plan and will commence Term 3 under the new Step 3 Restriction Easing Plan outlined below. Although some areas in South Australia will see changes from next Monday (including some State Schools) **no change** in easing measures will take place at Emmaus until the first day of Term 3. This will provide three weeks (including the two week holiday period) to watch the development of the current spread in Victoria, and ensure this is not similarly replicated in other states. If this was to be the case (increase in infection rate in SA) an updated Term 3 'Plan' would be communicated to you during the school holidays.

Step 3 Emmaus Restriction Easing Plan (from the beginning of Term 3)

What will strictly 'remain' under Step 3 Restriction Easing at Emmaus:

- All 'good-hygiene' and cleaning practices.
- Modified social greeting practices (no shaking hands for example).
- Individuals with any sickness symptoms must not attend school (and will be sent home) or enter the school grounds if a parent / guardian.
- Individuals having undertaken a COVID-19 test are not to enter the school grounds until a negative result has been received (should be self-isolating at home).
- Those in close and regular contact with an individual who is waiting on the outcome of a COVID-19 test are also not to enter the school grounds until the result has been confirmed as negative (siblings for example).
- Adults (staff / parents / other visitors) on the Emmaus site must follow the 1.5M social distancing protocols at all times, and not exceed the new 2M² per person limit for all indoor spaces.

What is 'new' under Step 3 Restriction Easing at Emmaus:

- All student gatherings (such as assemblies) can return to normal (no student number restrictions).
- Parents are welcome to enter the school grounds for child drop-off and pick-up responsibilities as normal (adhering strictly to the elements under the above 'remain' category however).
- All College business and professional development activities (within the above guidelines) can recommence.



- Interaction between Emmaus and other schools (including staff / student visits and joint activities) can return to normal.
- Subject to risk assessment and COVID-Safe Planning Measures the below activities can recommence:
 - o Emmaus community & parent events (such as school musicals for example)
 - o Physical Principal Tours (in a modified format)
 - o Intrastate (within SA) student camps and excursions
 - o All solo and team sport (including dance and drama) training and competition:
 - within and between schools
 - inside and outside venues
 - including contact levels usually permitted for school level sports

Some important 'exceptions' included in Step 3 Restriction Easing at Emmaus:

- Although parents are able to enter the school grounds with their children, at this time we are asking parents **not** to enter the classrooms or EPAC (for assemblies) due to the remaining 1.5M distancing rule. Unfortunately this means we cannot recommence morning JP parent reading at this stage or have parents attending assemblies (but anticipate this will be part of the next easing step during Term 3).
- No school visits to 'vulnerable' people groups such as the elderly in nursing homes or indigenous communities.
- No interstate or overseas travel associated with school activity or business (student or staff).
- No 'hire' or access to school facilities by external groups.
- Restrictions remain in relation to the use of change rooms and shower facilities in sports / recreation / camp venues which must be adhered to (unique depending on the specific venue).

It is my hope the above provides you the clarity and certainty you require as we move to Step 3 Restriction Easing from the beginning of Term 3 at Emmaus. I thank you for your ongoing support of the College during this challenging time.

Blessings

Andrew Linke
Principal