



# Face Coverings Policy 2020

1/8/2020

## PURPOSE

The Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, has announced that all Victorians aged 12 and over must wear face coverings when they leave home from 11.59pm on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020.

This policy outlines the requirements and standards expected for the provisions and wearing of face coverings at school commencing from 9am Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020

### The aims of the face coverings policy include:

1. To ensure that students and staff remain safe and healthy in our rapidly changing environment.
2. To provide guidelines for students, parents and carers and staff on appropriate face coverings to be worn at Hopetoun P-12 College.
3. To provide information on when and where face coverings should be worn.
4. To provide details on monitoring and enforcement of the wearing of face coverings.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to students, staff and visitors to Hopetoun P-12 College.

## POLICY

- The policies and directives provided by the Department of Education & Training on the wearing of face coverings on school sites will be implemented.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Students

*As a general rule secondary students will wear face coverings at all times, including recess and lunch time, except when eating/drinking and when teachers/ES give students permission to remove their face coverings during classes.*

- **Primary Students:** Students in our primary classes do not need to wear face coverings but may choose to do so.
- **Secondary school students** aged 12 years and over must wear a face covering while at school and while travelling to and from school.
- Exemptions for secondary students include:
  - individuals who have a relevant medical condition including problems with breathing
  - individuals with a serious medical condition of the face
  - individuals with a disability or mental health condition which precludes them from wearing a face covering
  - individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing whereby the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

- Secondary students must wear face coverings:
  - When travelling to and from school, including when walking to and from school.
  - While travelling on school buses.
  - Going to and from all classes.
  - In classrooms and during classes.
  - In the playground.
  - In all school building.
  - Anywhere on the school site, including the feedlot, sheds, hot house and other school sites.
- Face coverings may be removed by students under the following circumstances:
  - When eating and drinking
  - When teachers give permission for students to remove face coverings during classes such as physical education, sport, various applied activities and general classroom activities where it is deemed necessary by the teacher. It is the teacher's decision as to whether face coverings are to be worn or not during classes and only where there is a **specific purpose** for removal of face coverings.
- It is expected that parents/carers and students will provide the appropriate face coverings (see below for recommendations on appropriate face coverings).
- Students will be provided with information on how to remove face coverings safely.
- It is recommended that students have zip-lock plastic bags to store face coverings to ensure safe management of unused and used face coverings.
- The school has some single use, disposable face coverings for emergency use.
- Students who do not comply with the face covering policy will be managed through our **Behaviour Management Policy**. Year Level Coordinators will manage breaches in the first instance followed by senior staff if concerns continue. Parents will be notified if students do not bring face coverings to school. Parents will also be informed of serious and/or deliberate breaches of policy by students.

## Staff

- Teachers and education support staff are not required to wear face coverings while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can. (Memo, 31 July 2020)
- Teachers and support staff must wear face coverings in other areas of the school when not teaching (for example, in the staffroom, on yard duty, in the corridor, moving between buildings and when providing first aid or taking temperatures etc.), and when travelling to and from school, excepting when travelling by car, where government policy must be complied with.

Exemptions for staff, include:

- individuals who have a relevant medical condition including problems with breathing
- individuals with a serious medical condition of the face
- individuals with a disability or mental health condition which precludes them from wearing a face covering

- individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing whereby the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication. (Memo, 31 July 2020)

### Visitors

- All visitors, delivery personnel and tradespeople entering the school grounds must wear face coverings at all times. Parents and carers must also comply with this policy.

### Types of Face coverings

- Single use face coverings are acceptable, however they must be used and disposed of as per the manufacturers and Department of Health (DHHS) Guidelines.
- Scarves and bandannas or similar items are not to be worn as they do not meet the approved guidelines for face coverings.
- It is preferred that bought or home-made face coverings be plain, school colour of grey or maroon.
- Home-made or purchased cloth face coverings should be made according to the [DHHS specifications](#).
- Face coverings with offensive, rude or suggestive words, logos or patterns are not to be worn at school or travelling to or from school. We expect that our school values of respect and responsibility will be considered when choosing appropriate face covering material.

This policy is consistent with the current advice and guidelines provided through official sources.

Due to the rapidly changing environment and in order to ensure the health and safety of the students and staff of Hopetoun P-12 College this policy may be varied at the discretion of the Principal or as directives are made by the Department of Education and Training, by the Chief Health Officer or by DHHS.

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### References

- Howes, D. *Face Coverings*, memo DE&T, 31 July 2020.
- "Principals' Newsletter" Friday 31 July 2020.
- DE&T website [Face Coverings in Schools](#); 30 July 2020.