

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update #14 – 22 May 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday.

As you can appreciate, we've made some changes to ensure the school environment is as safe as we can make it for our students and staff.

Keeping Hillbrook physically open now becomes the responsibility of everyone and we have some strict protocols around managing routines, behaviours and sickness. Full details of these measures are available [here](#).

To prepare for the return to school next week it is important for you to read the information contained in this email. It is lengthy, however it should answer any questions you have about school resuming on Monday.

What if I still want to keep my child/children at home?

Our State Government has now mandated that all students should return to school for face to face learning. However, for any families who have serious health concerns, we understand you may want to keep your child/children at home. If this applies to you, please notify us before Monday at communications@hillbrook.qld.edu.au. It's important to note that Remote Learning will not be available in its current format and your child will need to make arrangements with their Home Class teacher and all other teachers in regard to their school work and the availability to Zoom into class. There will also be some online resources available.

Why are students required to sanitise their hands on arrival to school and at each classroom?

We are trying to minimise the impact of 850 pairs of hands bringing their own unique set of germs, bacteria and possibly viruses to school.

Interesting fact: This time last year there were 18,000 cases of flu in Australia ... this year there are 230, you can read more [here](#). Minimising the chances of co-infection (contracting the flu and coronavirus together) is important for all of us. Good hand hygiene really works.

Hand sanitising stations are in place at every entrance. Students will also be sanitising their hands when they enter each classroom. The same hand hygiene protocols also apply to our staff.

Should our family have the flu shot?

The Federal Government has recommended all Australians have a flu shot this year.

Are there any changes to the arrival time?

The school day will continue to commence at 8:30am, however we are asking

students not to arrive before 8am unless there is a reason such as music or an early lesson.

What entries can students use when they arrive at school?

Students can enter Hillbrook via the following entrances:

- Main open entrance on Hurdcotte Street
- Rugby Car park/Outdoor Ed
- Marcellin
- Near IT
- Via the new side car park near the Creche (enter from Hurdcotte Street).

We are asking students not to enter through Reception unless they arrive late and as mentioned above, everyone must sanitise hands on entry to Hillbrook.

What do I do if my child is ill or someone in our family has COVID-19 symptoms?

Students and staff will need to stay home if they are sick, this includes a common cold. We are trying to reduce all illness as the risks associated with coronavirus are higher with a co-infection.

If a student presents to sick bay with cold or flu like symptoms they are not permitted to remain at school. Parents will be called to pick them up and they will remain in the sick bay until this time.

If someone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child/children should not come to school until they have been cleared of COVID-19. See next question.

IMPORTANT CHANGE: If students or teachers have any of the COVID-19 symptoms – sore throat, dry cough, fever, loss of taste or smell – they will be required to seek medical advice in regard to testing. The Brisbane North and Moreton Bay Fever Clinic list is available [here](#).

What do I do if my child or someone in our family has had a COVID-19 test?

There are three things you will need to do:

1. Let us know a test has been conducted (you can do this by calling Estelle at Reception or emailing communications@hillbrook.qld.edu.au)
2. Anyone who lives in your household cannot return to school until the test results have come back and are negative.
3. If your child was tested due to illness, they cannot return to school until they are well again.

What if a test result comes back positive?

Please advise us immediately. Queensland Health will provide you with advice and they will also contact us.

Can sports uniforms still be worn all day on PE days? What about when riding a bike to school?

Yes. Students can wear their sports uniform to and from school on the days they have PE so change rooms can be avoided.

The same applies for those students who wish to ride their bike to school. With people avoiding public transport, riding to and from school will help reduce the number of cars on the roads and we would like to make this as easy as possible for our students.

Are there any additional items that need to be brought to school?

Yes, two things:

- We ask that all students have a small personal hand sanitiser in their backpacks for use during breaks and when eating.
- ITS students will now be issued with their own PPE (ear muffs, safety glasses etc). We need students to bring a drawstring bag and a soft glasses case to store these items in the ITS workshops.

What are the protocols around the COVIDSafe App and student phones?

We will be asking students to leave their phones turned on in silent mode while in their backpacks to maximise the effectiveness of the COVIDSafe App.

The Director General of Education has shared the following information with State Schools in regard to the COVIDSafe App:

“In my communication to principals and staff last Monday I provided advice on the Australian Government’s [COVIDSafe](#) App that will form part of our nation’s capacity to track and respond to COVID-19 cases in our communities. The more people that download the app, the better contact tracing capacity will be and the sooner Governments can look to the further easing of restrictions. Further information regarding the [COVIDSafe](#) app, including [FAQs](#), is available from the Australian Department of Health website.”

Will the Tuckshop and Uniform Shop be open and are there any new procedures?

Yes both shops will be reopening. A new Tuckshop menu is available from Monday

(see attached) and orders can be placed online or in person.

A few new things to be aware of:

- All transactions at both shops will be cashless for the foreseeable future.
- Social distancing rules will be in place.
- Uniform Shop Hours: **Tues: 7:30-9:30am | Wed: 12.30-3:30pm | Thurs 7:30-9:30am.**
- Jumpers can now be ordered online [here](#) for pick up on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Will tutoring still be available after school in the library?

Not at the moment. We are minimising visitors to Hillbrook for the foreseeable future. We will advise students and parents when tutors can resume.

Have the dates for the June school holidays changed?

Yes. We transferred one week of the June/July three week holiday block to the April school holidays. We made this decision to minimise the number of remote learning weeks with the hope to gain a week of face to face learning at the end of the Term. Therefore, the last day of Term 2 is now Friday 26 June 2020 and school will resume for Term 3 on Monday 13 July 2020.

Are there any changes to the school grounds with the current building projects?

Yes. We have a number of areas that are currently out of bounds due to the building works happening in G Block and the Rec Centre.

- Rec Centre and Oval – **out of bounds**
- Large covered courts – **out of bounds**
- Small covered courts – **out of bounds**

The Rugby Club Oval next door will be available for Hillbrook students to use during their breaks from 9am to 2pm daily.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: Students, staff and visitors are to avoid all areas with temporary building fences as these areas are official building sites. Please do not move this fencing to squeeze through for a shortcut. Building sites are dangerous and unauthorised people are not permitted to enter.

Is public transport safe?

We can let you know that social distancing and hygiene measures have been put in place by the following public transport providers:

- **Queensland Rail** details [here](#)
- **Translink** details [here](#)
- **Brisbane Bus Lines** – “Each bus carrying passengers is sanitised on return to the depot after both am and pm runs. Our drivers have been fully briefed on their obligations to support and monitor students in need of assistance to manage their physical proximity to others.”

We recommend students follow social distancing rules where possible and practice safe hand hygiene when using public transport.

If you have any further questions, please email communications@hillbrook.qld.edu.au.

We appreciate that your role during Remote Learning has been both parent and supervisor, and in many cases while you are working from home. We can't thank you enough for the support you have provided to your children and to their teachers. We are looking forward to having all our students back next week.

Have a good weekend and stay safe.

Yours sincerely
School Leadership Team