

Timeline

Series 76 COVID-19 Pandemic 2020 -- 2021

Recording events from PLC Sydney, Australia and the world

PLC Sydney Archives

31 December 2019

- A pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan, China was first reported to the WHO Country Office in China.

www.who.int

14-16 January 2020

- **Dr Burgis spent about 40 hours in Wuhan, arriving at 7.40 pm on 14 January and departing at 11.30 am on 16 January**
- **“During the holidays I spent a day in China. Susan and I travelled to Vietnam to see our daughter, Tiffany, and her family. They live in Hanoi. We spent a few weeks with them. One of my goals for 2020 is to establish a means by which we can serve the global educational community, earn an extra income for the College, and limit school fee rises. I went to China to meet a family that has established a school. They are looking for assistance with teacher development. I flew in from Hanoi. I was met at the airport in a private car, and taken to a hotel. The next day I visited their school and was engaged in talks. Then back to the hotel to sleep, and by private car to the airport. I came back to Australia promptly. Very little contact with anyone! I received medical clearance from the doctor. At that stage, there was no word that the Coronavirus had an asymptomatic effect on affected persons. Thus, I was at work last week. Once we decided to make the rule regarding those who had been to China, I imposed it on myself as well, even though I am perfectly well. I returned to work on Friday 31 January.” Mrs Leah Russell, Chairwoman of College Council and Mrs Nicola Taylor, Principal of PLCA also accompanied him on the trip.**

Letter from the Principal to Staff 31 January 2020.

21 January 2020

- As COVID-19 grips Hubei, Australia imposes “additional proportionate border measures” with extra screening for passengers arriving from the Chinese province.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

23 January 2020

- **“If your daughter has travelled to China, or one of the other destinations impacted by the Coronavirus, our nurse, Sister Jennifer Shaw, will be conducting a mandatory health check on her on her first day of school. . .”**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 23 January 2020.

25 January 2020

- First Australian infection confirmed in Victoria, a Chinese-Australian man in his 50s who had arrived from China.
- Australian government issues “do not travel” alert on Hubei.
- First three cases in NSW confirmed.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

27 January 2020

- **“I ask that all PLC Sydney students who have travelled to China, including Hong Kong, over the holidays delay their commencement of school until 14 days after the date that they landed in Australia.”**
- **Boarders’ Welcome Dinner and the Principals’ Great Race for Boarders to be rescheduled.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 27 January 2020.

27 January 2020

- Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy advises there is “no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission outside of the Hubei province” and insufficient evidence to roll out quarantine for international arrivals.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

29 January 2020

- Government unveils plans to evacuate Australian nationals from Hubei and quarantine them on Christmas Island for 14 days.
- Anyone in contact with a confirmed coronavirus case must now isolate in their home for 14 days.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

31 January 2020

- **“I write primarily to those students who will not be at school for the next 1-9 days due to the Coronavirus.” Outlines how students will be supported by teachers through email, Seesaw and Google Hangouts.”**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 31 January 2020.

1 February 2020

- Australia: 12 cases notified, 0 deaths
- Globally: 11,953 cases, 259 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

1 February 2020

- Government imposes a travel ban on foreign arrivals from mainland China. The restrictions require non-citizens to self-isolate for 14 days before coming to Australia.
- Government advises no travel to mainland China.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

5 February 2020

- Two Australians contract COVID-19 on the Diamond Princess cruise ship moored off Japan.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

8 February 2020

- Australia: 15 cases notified, 0 deaths
- Globally: 34,886 cases, 721 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

11 February 2020

- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced a name for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. It started in Wuhan, China in late 2019 and has since spread worldwide. The term COVID-19 is an acronym that stands for **coronavirus disease of 2019**.

www.who.int

15 February 2020

- Australia: 15 cases notified, 0 deaths
- Globally: 67,102 cases, 1,523 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

19 February 2020

- Australians on Diamond Princess evacuated to Darwin for isolation.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

22 February 2020

- Australia: 22 notified cases, 0 deaths
- Globally: 77,794 cases, 2,359 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

28 February 2020

- Prime Minister Scott Morrison declares a pandemic, activating Australia's emergency health response plan.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

29 February 2020

- Australia: 25 notified cases, 0 deaths
- Globally: 85,403 cases, 2,924 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

1 March 2020

- Restrictions on travel from Islamic Republic of Iran.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

1 March 2020

- Perth man who was on the Diamond Princess becomes Australia's first coronavirus fatality.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

2 March 2020

- First cases of human-to-human transmission in Australia confirmed in NSW.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

3 March 2020

- **“PLC Sydney is a community of about 5-7000 people. We have just under 1400 students, plus a few hundred full-time and part-time staff, including coaches. We have parents, grandparents and other relatives.”**
- **Letter outlines 10 things we need to do to keep safe.**

Letter from the Principal, March 2020.

4 March 2020

- **Outline of plans at PLC Sydney to implement recommendations by NSW Health, NSW Department of Education and WHO, including washing hands with soap, handgel will be available in all classrooms, overseas trips are being reconsidered,, etc.**

COVID-19 School Nurse Update, 4 March 2020.

5 March 2020

- Restrictions on travel from Republic of Korea.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

7 March 2020

- Australia: 71 notified cases, 2 deaths
- Globally: 101,927 cases, 3,486 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

8 March 2020

- Restrictions on COVID-19 contacts and travellers from listed higher risk countries.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

9 March 2020

- **“I write to inform you about some precautions we are taking in regard to our calendar in order to maintain normal operations, and what happens if the College has to close due to the actions of the NSW Department of Health.”**
- **Importance of hygiene.**
- **No assemblies to be held.**
- **No tours will depart before 30 July 2020. I**
- **If we do need to close we will operate remotely.**
- **Online learning process outlined.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Families, 9 March 2020.

9 March 2020

- **Outlines plans for methodology and staff training for online learning. Sarah Golsby-Smith, Head of Learning and Teaching, to organise training dates.**

All Staff Briefing Minutes, 9 March 2020.

10 March 2020

- Australia reaches 100 confirmed cases, more than half of them in NSW.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

11 March 2020

- WHO General Director, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, declares a pandemic. At his news briefing he said, “We have therefore made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterised as a pandemic. Pandemic is not a word to use lightly or carelessly. It is a word that, if misused, can cause unreasonable fear, or unjustified acceptance that the fight is over, leading to unnecessary suffering and death.”

www.who.int

12 March 2020

- **Plans outlined to boarding community on processes in place for the boarding house as well as procedures in the case of the College shutting down.**

Letter from Pauline Turner, Director of Boarding to Boarding Parents and Guardians, 12 March 2020.

12 March 2020

- Government announces \$17.6 billion stimulus package, which includes cash payments for welfare recipients, business investment incentives and wage subsidies.
- Morrison states: “I’m going to the footy this weekend and I’m looking forward to it.”

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

13 March 2020

- **“Next Wednesday, 18 March, Year 10- will work from home. They will be expected to sign in at 8.20 am for their first lesson and undertake it with their teacher. Each subsequent lesson will have the same expectation.”**
- **Students to dress in sports shirt or house shirt, set up computer with a power cord, have earphones, work at a table.**

Letter from the Principal to Parents of Year 10 Students, 13 March 2020.

13 March 2020

- **All IGSSA and IPSHA sporting events cancelled.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 13 March 2020.

13 March 2020

- **Plans outlined for how learning activities will be delivered to Transition Class students should the school close due to COVID-19, including online learning tools and “skills for living” tasks to be performed around the home.**

Letter from Ms Jacquellen Young, Director of Learning Enrichment and Mrs Cathee McAllum, Transition Program Coordinator, to Parents of Transition Students, 13 March 2020.

13 March 2020

- Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton tests positive for coronavirus and goes into self-isolation. Cabinet colleagues decline to get tested.
- Government advises against non-essential public gatherings of 500 people or more from March 16.
- Morrison convenes a national cabinet made up of himself and state and territory leaders.
- Morrison’s office says he will no longer attend the NRL “after further consideration and the potential for the Prime Minister’s attendance to be misrepresented”.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

14 March 2020

- **Jersey Day cancelled.**

14 March 2020

- Australia: 295 cases notified, 3 deaths
- Globally: 142,539 cases, 5,393 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

15 March 2020

- All overseas arrivals required to self-isolate for 14 days and cruise ship arrivals banned.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

15 March 2020

- The government toughens social distancing advice, with Morrison saying people should stop shaking hands. The announcements comes hours after Murphy says shaking is generally fine although that would change if community transmission increased.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

16 March 2020

- **Report of conversation on 15 March with principals of 19 other independent schools, Minister for Education NSW, Minister for Health NSW, Chief Health Officer NSW, Secretary of NSW Department of Education and CEO of Association of Independent Schools.**
- **The advice given to the National Cabinet is that the best option for schools at present is to retain open.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 16 March 2020.

16 March 2020

- **“The aim of the meeting was to engage with Administration staff regarding the impact on working arrangements for the end of Term 1 and into Term 2.” All permanent employees will remain employed, casual staff might have reduced work load. Paul has looked at duties currently carried out by Admin staff to assess where to divert staff if necessary. . . ”**

Staff Briefing Minutes: Admin Staff, 16 March 2020.

16 March 2020

- **Changes made following NSW Department of Health’s guidelines for schools re COVID-19 include: no Assembly, only Year assemblies, café closed for sitting, no House meetings**

Email from Mrs Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, to Senior School Staff, 16 March 2020.

16 March 2020

- **Non-essential static gatherings of more than 500 people banned.**

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

17 March 2020

- **“Rather than being on the back foot with increasing numbers of students staying home, increasing the pressure on teaching staff to deliver two types of teaching, Dr Burgis is asking teachers to teach their classes in the classroom online from Thursday 19 March onwards. Teachers are to operate on an online platform but from their classroom.”**
- **“After significant negotiations and discussions between Geoff Newcombe and the Chief Medical Officer there will be an announcement soon on a different way of handling the Boarding house without it being lockdown.”**

Senior School Staff Briefing Minutes, 17 March 2020.

17 March 2020

- **“Human biosecurity emergency” declared, giving the government sweeping powers over the movement of people and goods.**
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises Australians overseas to return home.**

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

18 March 2020

- **“I write to inform you that PLC Sydney will move to its online learning platform from Monday 23 March at 8.20 am. No classes will be held on the College campus until further notice. This change will last until at least the end of Term 1.”**
- **Exceptions will be Year 12 students who will come to school for three days to complete assessments and the Transition Class for at least one more week.**
- **Boarders in Years 7 – 11 will go home on Friday 20 March.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 18 March 2020.

18 March 2020

- **IT staff will assist all staff with technology queries on 23,24,25 March.**
- **All staff expected to work remotely from Thursday 26 March.**
- **Staff are doing well so far with upskilling.**

Senior School Staff Briefing Minutes, 18 March 2020.

18 March 2020

- **Outlines further measures to prevent spread of the virus, including handwashing, physical distancing, cough etiquette, handgel, Year 7 vaccinations postponed, staff free Flufax scheduled, etc.**

COVID-19 School Nurse Update, 18 March 2020.

18 March 2020

- Government introduces a ban on indoor gatherings of more than 100 people. Schools, universities, airports, public transport and other essential services are exempt.
- \$715 million worth of support for airlines announced.
- New restrictions on aged-care facilities, barring visitors who have recently been overseas, in contact with a confirmed coronavirus case or showing potential symptoms.
- Morrison intervenes on the issue of panic-buying, declaring: "Stop hoarding. I can't be more blunt about it. Stop it."

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

18 March 2020

- DFAT raises travel advice for all overseas destinations to Level 4 "Do Not Travel"; continuation of 14-day quarantine requirement for all returning travellers; and restrictions on indoor gatherings.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

19 March 2020

- The Ruby Princess cruise ship is allowed to dock in Sydney and all 2700 passengers disembarked, despite the ship reporting 158 cases of illness.
- Tasmania announces mandatory 14-day quarantine period for people entering the state.
- Reserve Bank unveils sweeping economic package, cutting interest rates of 0.25 per cent and unveiling \$90 billion in financing for banks. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg adds \$15 billion for smaller lenders.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

20 March 2020

- **Answers to FAQs for parents of Junior School students as the Colleges moves to online learning, including attendance, uniform, how work will be received, Google Meet/Zoom, how teachers will give feedback, etc.**

Letter from Mrs Melissa Watters, Head of Junior School, Mrs Kate Wheatley, Mrs Virginia Shearer, Assistant to Head of Junior School, to Parents of Junior School students, 20 March 2020.

20 March 2020

- Travel ban on foreign nationals entering Australia; restriction of travel to remote communities; and Tasmania closes borders to non-essential travellers.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

20 March 2020

- Australia closes its borders to all non-citizens and non-residents.
- Stringent social distancing guidelines are issued, requiring four square metres per person in indoor spaces. People are advised to maintain a distance of 1m to 1.5m from others.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

21 March 2020

- Qld, WA, NT and SA close borders to non-essential travellers.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

21 March 2020

- Confirmed Australian cases of coronavirus balloon to more than 1000. Australia's coronavirus death toll rises to seven.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

22 March 2020

- Government unveils a second economic support package of \$66 billion, expanding unemployment payments, allowing early access to superannuation and helping businesses with cash flow. The package brings the total value of emergency economic measures to \$189 billion.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

22 March 2020

- Australia: 1,765 confirmed cases, 7 deaths
- Globally: 292,142 cases, 12,783 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

23 March 2020

- **First day of online learning was “very successful”.**
- **“In the days ahead we have more planned for you. Laughter is a very important thing. It connects us as humans. We will be initiating ways we can have some fun.”**
- **“Our Transition girls will stay at home from now on. Our online platform is ready for them too!”**
- **“The pool and gymnasium closed today, in line with government regulations.”**
- **“I will also be announcing a new prize at Speech Day connected to a new initiative next week to help us see how significant and positive these days could be for our future.”**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney students and families, 23 March 2020.

23 March 2020

- Under “stage one” of the national cabinet’s response, pubs, clubs, gyms, cinemas, casinos and religious gatherings shut down nationwide from midday. Restaurants and cafes restricted to takeaway and delivery.
- Confusion reigns over the status of schools, with the federal government declaring schools should remain open while Victoria brings forward schools holidays and NSW and the ACT put in place partial closures and distance learning.
- Health Minister Greg Hunt says 1.5 million further test kits have been ordered.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

24 March 2020

- Temporary suspension of all non-urgent elective procedures in both the public and private sector; progressive scale up of social distancing measures with stronger measures in relation to non-essential gatherings, and considerations of further more intense options; and aged care providers limit visits to a maximum of two visitors at one time per day.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

24 March 2020

- Social distancing rules expand under “stage two”, limiting weddings to five people, funerals and outdoor gatherings to 10, and gatherings in people’s homes to 10. Events and venues to be closed and banned expands to beauty and massage parlours, auctions and more.
- PM urges people to stay home and only leave for essential work and important tasks.
- The number of confirmed cases from the Ruby Princess rises to 133, with a woman in her 70s who was on the ship dies in Sydney.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

25 March 2020

- **“College Council will meet next week in special session to help me plot a course for the terms ahead.”**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 25 March 2020.

25 March 2020

- **Only 3 absences in Senior School. Feedback from students is that they are enjoying the online learning and that it is going well for them. Google hangouts is proving a wonderful way to communicate with the students, however we do need to create some protocols around its use.**

Email from Mrs Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, to Senior School staff, 25 March 2020.

25 March 2020

- Government begins sending out millions of official text messages, advising people: “To stop the spread stay 1.5 metres from others, follow rules on social gatherings, wash hands, stay home if sick.”
- With NSW and Victoria agitating for “stage three”, national Deputy Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says all officials agree on the measures that should be adopted but the dispute is about “two schools of thoughts”, one for hard and fast and the other for a scalable, proportional strategy.
- Federal Labor begins to question the government’s strategy, calling for a stricter shutdown and expanded economic and social measures.
- With more test kits becoming available, the government broadens the strict testing criteria to include more people.
- All non-urgent elective surgeries are suspended.
- Government establishes a COVID-19 co-ordination commission to tackle the economic and social impact of the pandemic.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

25 March 2020

- School-based immunisation programs, with the exception of the delivery of meningococcal ACWY vaccine, are paused; Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents are restricted from travelling overseas.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

26 March 2020

- **“PLC Sydney will be featured on 60 Minutes this Sunday evening regarding our online learning program. . . We are very grateful to Angie and Lily Rofail, their mother, Lydia, and Mrs Clark, for permitting us to have their learning filmed. I was also interviewed.”**
- **NAPLAN cancelled for 2020.**
- **HSC is going ahead for 2020.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 26 March 2020.

26 March 2020

- Restricted movement into certain remote areas to protect community members from COVID-19.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

26 March 2020

- Confirmed cases in Australia reach 2793, with 12 deaths. 178,000 tests have been conducted.
- Travel restrictions for remote Indigenous communities kick in, requiring 14-day self-isolation for visitors.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

27 March 2020

- **Congratulations on making it through week 1 (of online learning)! Who would have thought a week ago we would have mastered Google hangouts, meets and Zoom! Plus learning how to record audio and video.**

Email from Mrs Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, to Senior School staff, 27 March 2020.

27 March 2020

- Morrison praises Australians for adapting to “significant change”, with data showing people’s movement down dramatically over past two weeks.
- Mandatory 14-day quarantine in hotels introduced for citizens returning from overseas. The Defence Force to assist in enforcing self-isolation.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 March 2020, pages 28-29.

28 March 2020

- All people entering Australia required to undertake a mandatory 14-day quarantine at designated facilities (e.g. hotels) in their port of arrival.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

29 March 2020

- Both indoor and outdoor public gatherings limited to two persons only.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

29 March 2020

- Australia: 4,159 confirmed cases, 15 deaths
- Globally: 634,813 cases, 29,891 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

30 March 2020

- **The Living History Project launched; students in Years K-Year 10 may participate. Results of Week 1 survey given. “These results indicate that the vast majority of students have embraced the new model well. Considering it was thrust upon us and the task of changing is a significant one, I think we can be really proud of our efforts to date.”**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 30 March 2020.

30 March 2020

- Special provisions be applied to vulnerable people in the workplace and application of additional regional social distancing measures to combat COVID-19.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

31 March 2020

- “As Chair of Council, Mrs Leah Russell is the person who will write to you formally about the financial decisions of Council. You should expect a letter to be published soon.”
- Formal online lessons for Junior School and Years 7 – 11 will conclude on Friday 3 April (rather than 9 April).
- Formal year 12 classes will conclude on Wednesday 8 April (rather than 9 April).
- **Power-up Wednesdays** introduced for Term 2 for Years 7-10. Students have a break from normal classes to work on some projects of their choice:
PLC Sydney Balance and Fitness Carnival (replaces the Athletics Carnival)
The Living History Project
Creative Writing Competition
PLC Sydney Vision (à la Eurovision, replaces House Choir Night)
Wellbeing Activities and Presentations

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 31 March 2020.

2 April 2020

- Another activity announced as part of **Power-up Wednesdays – The Portrait in Isolation Project.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 2 April 2020.

2 April 2020

- **Structure for Junior School students for Term 2;**
8.20 am log on to the roll
Morning sessions include a Pastoral Zoom meeting and English activities
Brain Break/Recess
The middle session of the day will focus on Mathematics skills and tasks
Brain Break/Lunch
Get Active Challenge
Afternoon session will have a specialist lesson, rotating to include Science, HSIE, History and Geography, PDHPE, Art, Music, Library, Languages and Digital Technology
Wednesdays will be different in Term 2: a Welcome Wednesday, a Wellness Wednesday, a Wired Wednesday, and a Wacky Wednesday

Letter from Mrs Melissa Watters, Head of Junior School, to Parents of Junior School students, 2 April 2020.

3 April 2020

- “The College Council has determined that it will pass on any savings to families that it might glean from this situation [not being on campus]. Those savings are small at present. For example, since we will not incur activity costs for co-curricular activities such as sport or excursions, we will not charge for these in term 2 fees. Boarding fees will be charged on a pro-rata basis according to accommodation usage. We continue to monitor and pass on any real savings that my result in the future.”

Letter from Mrs Leah Russell, Chairwoman, College Council, to Parents of PLC Sydney, 3 April 2020.

3 April 2020

- More than a million cases of coronavirus have been registered globally, according to the latest figures from Johns Hopkins University. . . More than 51,000 people have died and more than 208,000 have recovered, according to the university's figures.

BBC News App, 3 April 2020.

4 April 2020

- Current restrictions include:
social distancing (1.5 metres between people except for family members)
public gatherings restricted to 2 people
staying home except for shopping for essentials, medical purposes, work and education, if you cannot work or learn remotely
[personal exercise not listed, but is permitted, as per ABC News App, 11 April 2020 and earlier announcements by the Government]
people 70 and over should stay home
pubs, clubs, gyms and place of worship are closed
restaurants and cafes can serve takeaway or delivery
NSW schools are open, but students encouraged to stay at home
hairdressers and barbers can continue with limits on numbers
weddings – no more than 5 may attend
funerals – no more than 10 may attend

"Health & Safety", Sydney Morning Herald, 4-5 April 2020.

4 April 2020

- New words and expressions that have entered our vocabulary or that now have an altered meaning – social distancing, physical distancing, flatten the curve, patient zero, trace and track, lockdown, shutdown, "quazza", "iso", "the Rona", "social disso", bottles of "sanny", "Covidiot", etc.

"Words for the Coronial Generation", David Astle, Sydney Morning Herald, 4-5 April 2020.

5 April 2020

- Australia: 5,805 confirmed cases, 33 deaths
- Globally: 1,133,758 cases, 62,784 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

6 April 2020

- **"Our bursar will make a first contact with families on the COVID-19 register this week. I will set aside time to talk in the Easter holiday period."**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 6 April 2020.

7 April 2020

- **"We are thankful to God that we have come through the term without anyone being impacted by COVID-19 in our community. We are aware of no students or immediate family members who have been impacted."**
- **"Today sees the launch of PLC Sydney's Portraits in Isolation, a Collection Art Project that all our students, from Pre-K to Year 12, can choose to participate in."**
- **"One topic that will require further comment is how we are supporting Evandale families, in particular Pre-K. I write more about this in the days ahead."**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 7 April 2020.

7 April 2020

- Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan says the Commonwealth and states have agreed that all Year 12 students will finish high school this year. He says the Commonwealth doesn't want students learning from home to be disadvantaged and will consult further on possible adjustments to this year's ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank).

ABC News App, 7 April 2020.

8 April 2020

- **“We should be direct about what has occurred over the past six weeks. We have created a second school. This school is predominantly online, utilising Zoom, Google Classroom, Seesaw and other platforms. . .I also note that any new venture needs to be refined. . .”**
- **“I want to commence the conversation about how we will return [to the campus]. . .so that we get the best possible plan together.”**
- **“The on campus unit will continue into Term 2. Please note that its purpose is to support the education of girls whose parents are unable to support them at home. Our teachers use the programs of staff to support learning. It is not an occasional care facility.”**
- **Changes to fees discussed, including the establishment of the COVID-19 Register.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 8 April 2020.

School holidays: 8 – 28 April 2020

9 April 2020

- **Outlining changes for Pre-Kindergarten students for Term 2: parents may enrol their daughters for a 2-day program, 3-day program or 5-day program, with corresponding fees. All programs will be online learning. The plan will be reviewed at the end of Term 2 or upon return to the College.**

Letter from Dr Paul Burgis, Principal, and Mrs Melissa Watters, Head of Junior School, to parents of Pre-Kindergarten students 9 April 2020.

9 April 2020

- Air crew on international flights will be required to self-isolate at their place of residence (or hotel if not in their local city) between flights or for 14 days, whichever is shorter.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Report #11, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

9 April 2020

- Jobkeeper Scheme passed by Parliament. The tax office will give businesses with a 30% fall in turnover due to coronavirus \$1500 for each worker a fortnight, with payments to reach employers in the first week of May.

SBS News App, 9 April 2020.

11 April 2020

- Rules in place at the federal level – some are in addition to those outlined 4 April and others were omitted in that list: some state borders are closed except for people with exemptions, cinemas and casinos also closed, all travellers arriving in Australia must go into 14 days of self-isolation at a designated quarantine facility.

ABC News App, 11 April 2020.

12 April 2020

- Australia: 6,394 notified cases, 46 deaths. This is a 65% decrease in weekly new cases compared to the previous reporting period.
- Globally: 1,696,588 cases, 105,952 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

14 April 2020

- Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has commended the way Australians have saved lives by staying home during the long [Easter] weekend in an attempt to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

SBS News App, 14 April 2020.

14 April 2020

- Australia's jobless rate is tipped to nearly double to 10 per cent for the June quarter because of the coronavirus pandemic, new Treasury analysis shows.

SBS News App 14 April 2020.

15 April 2020

- Prime Minister Scott Morrison has thanked Australian teachers as he calls on them to keep classrooms operating with students preparing to start term two.

SBS News App, 15 April 2020.

18-19 April 2020

- Premier Gladys Berejiklian's plan for a part-time schooling roster is unrealistic, principals warn. . . Ms Berejiklian said public schools would offer face-to-face learning to some students from May 11. . . NSW Teachers Federation has proposed a staged return, beginning with Year 12 and Kindergarten, ensuring adequate social distancing measures. . . Some independent schools already have their own strategies.

"Principals angry at part-time class plan", Sydney Morning Herald, 18-19 April 2020.

18-19 April 2020

- "Deputy Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says the coronavirus tracing app being developed by the national cabinet will be key to containing the virus, as the federal government ramps up its campaign for Australians to agree to have their movements logged."

"Voluntary tracing app seen as key to containing virus, paving way for relaxed rules", Sydney Morning Herald, 18-19 April 2020.

19 April 2020

- Australia: 6,606 notified cases, 69 deaths.
- Globally: 2,241,359 cases, 152,551 deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

21 April 2020

- School students in NSW will begin a staggered return to the classroom from May 11, leading up to a full-time return to face-to-face learning from term three.

SBS News App, 21 April 2020.

23 April 2020

- **Monday 27 April will be a Professional Development Day for staff.**
- **Regular school lessons will commence on Tuesday 28 April.**
- **The first week of school will still follow the previously published online program.**
- **Changes will start on 4 May and major changes will occur in the weeks starting 11 and 18 May in terms of a staged return to campus.**
- **Details will be advised nearer the time, as the situation changes rapidly.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 23 April 2020.

25-26 April 2020

- “The NSW government’s back-to-school plan has created an unfair system for this year’s HSC, with educators warning those at private schools will have twice as much face-to-face learning in term two as their public school counterparts.”

“HSC will be unfair: teachers”, Sydney Morning Herald, 25-26 April 2020, p. 1 and 8.

26 April 2020

- Australia: 6,711 notified cases, 77 deaths.
- Globally: 2,804,796 cases, 193,710 deaths.
- The Australian Government launches a new voluntary coronavirus app, COVIDSafe.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

27 April 2020

- **Plans outlined for a staged return of students and staff to the campus, noting that the situation is constantly reassessed and may change.**
- **Junior School students will start a staged return from 4 May.**
- **Year 12 students will return to school on 6 May.**
- **Year 11 students will return to school on 8 May.**
- **Year 12 Boarders will return to the Boarding House from 11 May.**
- **All going well, all students will be back on campus from 25 May, ahead of the Minister for Education’s directive that all students should return by 1 June.**
- **Senior School students will wear masks.**
- **Temporary larger classrooms are being created (MRC level 3, College Hall, AKT) so students can be at a greater distance from each other.**
- **Stairwells will be one way corridors.**
- **Cleaning of balustrades, door knobs and bathrooms will be increased**
- **Teachers’ main workplace desks will be in a classroom not a staff room.**
- **Create an area for teachers’ children too attend, if their own school is not able to accommodate them.**

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Community, 27 April 2020.

27 April 2020

- **As we come back to campus we must ensure that every staff member be fully aware of their own health. The virus is much riskier for those over 60 years old.**
- **Administrative staff that are required on campus to do their roles, eg those who support teaching staff or the Executive, will be advised when they should return. Where staff can work from home, they should do so, as their offices will be used by other staff members required on campus.**
- **COVID-19 may impact staffing. Whilst some staff do not have their usual duties, we are continuing to pay all staff and no one on the main campus has been made redundant.**
- **Directions for putting on a face mask.**

Letter from the Principal to Staff, 27 April 2020.

27 April 2020

- **Plans outlined for a staged return of Junior School students and staff to the campus.**
- **Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Years 1,2,3 and 5 will return to school on 4 May.**
- **Years 4 and 6 will return to school on 18 May.**
- **Parents are asked not to come on campus.**
- **Students will need to bring their own packed morning tea, lunch and water bottle each day; students will not share food.**

- **Exit times at the end of the day will be staggered.**
- **After School Care will resume from 18 May.**

Letter from Junior School Executive to Parents, 27 April 2020.

27 April 2020

- NSW Government has revealed that from May 11 – week three of term two – students will return to campus for one day a week.
- “Initially it will just be a day a week, then progressively two days, and then we hope by the end of term two we’ll be in a position to have students going back to school in a full-time capacity by term three,” Ms Berejiklian said.

ABC News App, 27 April 2020.

27 April 2020

- At least one million Australians have downloaded the COVID-19 tracer app, which aims to help health officials identify people who may have come into contact with someone with the disease.
- Called COVIDSafe, the voluntary app became available for download and registration on Sunday evening and has been backed by doctors, nursing, business and banking groups.
- The COVIDSafe app is based on Singapore’s Tracetogether software, which records the Bluetooth connections a phone makes with others, as part of what’s being called a “Bluetooth handshake”.
- Downloading the app is voluntary, but the Federal Government wants to see at least 40 per cent of Australians register so authorities can step contact tracing up to an “industrial-scale”.

SBS News App, 27 April 2020.

28 April 2020

- **For the first three weeks of Term 2 (28 April – 15 May) Junior School students will have a mix of on-campus and at home/online learning.**

PLC Sydney website.

28 April 2020

- More than two million Australians have downloaded the COVID-19 tracer app. . .
- Year 12 public school students are pleading with authorities to be allowed to return to school full time, fearing they will be disadvantaged. . .worried their independent school counterparts will have the edge.

SBS News App, 28 April 2020.

28 April 2020

- From Friday (1 May), groups of two adults – and their children if they have any – will be able to visit other households for social gatherings. The Premier said there was an “inherent risk” to easing restrictions but she was “absolutely confident that people will be responsible”.

ABC News App, 28 April 2020.

29 April

- Prime Minister Scott Morrison has declared Australia is “not too far away” from easing its coronavirus restrictions.

ABC News App, 29 April 2020.

29 April 2020

- Australians urged not to neglect mental health during “pressure cooker” coronavirus pandemic.

SBS News App, 29 April 2020.

30 April 2020

- Private schools will be given a \$13 billion incentive to restart classroom teaching within four weeks under a federal plan to use annual funding to demolish resistance to face-to-face learning. . . offer independent and Catholic schools a 25 per cent advance on next year's federal funding on the condition they have at least half their students in classrooms by June 1. . . Presbyterian ladies' College wants everyone back from May 25.

Sydney Morning Herald, 30 April 2020 p. 1.

1 May 2020

- **The plan for students coming back to school will be reviewed every two weeks and alterations made if necessary.**
- **Some teachers will continue teaching from home and will stream the lesson via Zoom to the student's classrooms.**
- **There will be tape on the floor to indicate how near students are to come to the teacher's desk.**

Dr Burgis speaking at end of ANZAC Day commemoration Assembly (video), 1 May 2020.

1 May 2020

- **Protocols for Year 12 upon returning to campus include wearing full winter uniform, bringing own food, bringing own hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes for desks and chairs, washing hands at least twice each day, etc.**

Senior School Daily Update, 1 May 2020.

1 May 2020

- **Karen Stephenson (Director of JD Oates Aquatic Institute) is in charge of distributing cleaning products to staff; each classroom and kitchen will have its own kit. Kits will stay in the room.**
- **Air conditioning systems are being thoroughly cleaned.**
- **6 Junior School and 8.6 Senior School teachers will continue to work from home.**
- **Children of staff who cannot attend their own schools can be on campus (Lyons House or Extension Centre) between 8.00 am and 3.30 pm school days. Staff will support them with their schoolwork.**
- **The matter of students wearing masks has been contentious. Wearing masks will not be compulsory.**

Letter from Dr Burgis to Staff, 1 May 2020.

1 May 2020

- **The cleaning kit will include: hand sanitiser, disinfectant, bactericidal wet wipes, paper towels, tissues, disposable gloves, masks.**

Email from Karen Stephenson to Staff, 1 May 2020.

May 2020

- **Updated uniform requirements on returning to school –**
- **Senior School: full winter uniform or PLC Sydney tracksuit with PE shirt or House shirt**
- **Junior School: PLC Sydney branded tracksuit/PE shirt or House shirt. From 18 May full winter uniform, including blazers.**

2-3 May 2020

- **Some statistics from the period (to date) of the pandemic: 600,000 Australians have lost their jobs, spending at cinemas has fallen by 98.5%, online gambling has increased by 20%, sales of tinned foods increased by 50% in March, spending on rail**

transport decreased by 80% in month of April, national road toll dropped by 12.5% in first three months of 2020, data flowing through NBN system has increased by 101%.
"The cost of taking on a pandemic", Sydney Morning Herald, 2-3 May 2020, p. 14-15.

3 May 2020

- Australia: 6,784 notified cases, 89 deaths.
- Globally: 3,349,786 cases, 238,628 deaths.
- The Australian Government launches a new voluntary coronavirus app, COVIDSafe.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

4 May 2020

- **Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Years 1,2,3 and 5 return to campus.**

Letter from Junior School Executive to Parents, 27 April 2020.

4 May 2020

- Lockdown restrictions are easing across Europe as governments move to the next phase of their response to the pandemic.
- Examples given for Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Poland.

BBC News App, 4 May 2020.

6 May 2020

- **Year 12 classes recommence on campus.**

Term 2 Events Summary

6 May 2020

- **Until all year Groups are back on campus (20 May) all periods will be 45 minutes. Bells will be off until 20 May.**

Email from Eleisha Elvy, PA to the Deputy Principal, to Staff, 6 May 2020.

6 May 2020

- The Head of UNICEF warns that school lockdown measures disadvantage children who don't have a laptop, tablet, or reliable internet connection, etc.

SBS News App, 6 May 2020.

6 May 2020

- Employers must guarantee coronavirus-safe workplaces before they're allowed to reopen as the government sets a July target to restore business and industry. Prime Minister Scott Morrison says the virus costs the country \$4 billion a week.

SBS News App, 6 May 2020.

8 May 2020

- **Year 11 classes recommence on campus.**

Term 2 Events Summary

9-10 May 2020

- Australian Government releases 3-step framework for Covidsafe. States and territories can implement changes based on their COVID-19 conditions.

"3-Step Framework for COVIDSAFE", Sydney Morning Herald, 9-10 May, 2020, p. 4.

10 May 2020

- Australia: 6,971 notified cases, 98 deaths.
- Globally: 3,917,366 cases, 274,361 deaths.
- NSW Government announced that from 15 May: gatherings of up to 10 people will be permitted outdoors, in cafes and restaurants, or in places of worship; up to 5 visitors may gather in a household; weddings up to 10 guests, indoor funerals up to 20

mourners and outdoor funerals up to 30 mourners; and use of outdoor equipment and outdoor pools permitted with restrictions.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

10 May 2020

- “Students will learn a stripped-back version of the NSW curriculum for the rest of term two, with educators given permission to factor learning disruptions into their teaching plans and focus on the most essential content.”

“Students to be taught abridged school curriculum for term two”, Sun Herald, 10 May 2020, p. 1.

11 May 2020

- **Year 7 classes recommence on campus.**

Term 2 Events Summary

12 May 2020

- NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced NSW will enter stage one of the relaxed restrictions from Friday 15 May. These include an increase to 5 visitors per household, 10 customers in a café or restaurant, 10 guests at a wedding, 20 people at indoor funerals and 30 people at outdoor funerals.

SBS News App, 12 May 2020.

13 May 2020

- **Year 11 Parent-Teacher interviews will be via phone calls or zoom meetings.**

Letter from Ms Trish Pollett, Head of Curriculum to Parents and Carers, 13 May 2020.

14 May 2020

- Pubs and clubs in NBSW that have dining areas will be allowed to reopen them on Friday [15 May] as part of an already-announced easing of coronavirus restrictions. Social distancing requirements must be adhered to and a limit of 10 customers at any given time is allowed.

SBS News App, 14 May 2020.

15 May 2020

- **From 1 June we expect all students to return to on campus learning. If a student is unable to be on campus, the school will require a medical certificate or equivalent.**
- **Teachers will now spray every desk before each lesson and will give each student a paper towel to wipe the desk; this will gain a greater assuredness of cleanliness.**
- **Physical distancing required in classrooms and in the playground where possible.**
- **Week 6 will see the return of many co-curricular activities.**

Letter from Dr Burgis to Staff, 15 May 2020.

15 May 2020

- **Dr Burgis announces that the professional development day scheduled for 5 June will be a day off for all staff, acknowledging that “everyone has been working very hard under extraordinary circumstances this year”. “Whilst we highly value professional development, given our current situation. . .”**

Email from Dr Burgis to Staff, 15 May 2020.

17 May 2020

- Australia: 7,075 notified cases, 100 deaths.
- Globally: 4,525,497 cases, 307,394 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

18 May 2020

- **Year 9 classes recommence on campus.**

Term 2 Events Summary

18 May 2020

- **The creche provided for children of staff will cease operation on 22 May. “It’s good that these children can be back at their own schools”.**

Letter from Ms Deb Vitlin, Head of Compliance and Human Resources, to Staff, 18 May 2020.

18 May 2020

- **NSW public school students will return to classrooms full time from Monday [25 May] after weeks of remote learning and a staggered return to campus. Students began returning to school for one day a week from 11 May, with plans for a complete return to face-to-face learning by the beginning of term three in late July.**

SBS News App, 18 May 2020.

19 May 2020

- **Year 8 classes recommence on campus.**

Letter from Dr Burgis to Staff, 15 May 2020.

20 May 2020

- **Year 10 classes recommence on campus.**

Term 2 Events Summary

20 May 2020

- **Year 7 Parent-Teacher interviews will be conducted via phone calls or Zoom meetings.**

Letter from Ms Trish Pollett, Head of Curriculum, to Parents and Carers, 20 May 2020.

22 May 2020

- **Assembly: year groups will be in different place around the campus, i.e. AKT, gym, classrooms, as only one year group may be together at a given time.**
- **Some co-curricular activities will restart from 1 June. Indoor pools can be used for squad training under strict conditions.**
- **We are keen to have everyone back at school by 1 June.**
- **Some changes to this year’s HSC announced.**
- **Open Day and Fair cancelled for 2020.**

Letter from Dr Burgis to Staff, 22 May 2020.

23-24 May 2020

- **Public transport restrictions: 12 people on a bus, 32 people in a train carriage, 245 on a Freshwater ferry.**
- **Cruise ships will be barred from entering Australian waters until at least September.**
- **Cafes and restaurants can seat 10 patrons at any one time, including children.**
- **From 1 June, pubs, cafes and restaurants will be allowed up to 50 patrons.**

“Health & Safety”, Sydney Morning Herald, 23-24 May 2020.

24 May 2020

- **Australia: 7,135 notified cases, 102 deaths.**
- **Globally: 5,204,508 cases, 337,687 deaths.**

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

25 May 2020

- **All Senior and Junior year groups on campus.**

Term 2 Events Summary

25 May 2020

- The Premier has announced that from 1 June beauty salons, tanning salons, nail bars will reopen.
- Also from 1 June museums, galleries and libraries will open and traveling to regional NSW for a holiday will be allowed again.

ABC News App, 25 May 2020.

26 May 2020

- NSW coronavirus cases confirmed at Waverley College and Moriah College in Sydney's east.
- Students and staff at both schools evacuated and the schools closed.

ABC News App, 26 May 2020.

26 May 2020

- NSW students kept home from next week will be marked absent.
- NSW Education Minister says "We are living through a pandemic and there will be occasions where we have a positive case that does affect the school community. This will happen from time to time. . ."

SBS News App, 26 May 2020.

26 May 2020

- First Australian human trials of potential coronavirus vaccine start in Melbourne
- More than 1000 volunteers in Melbourne and Brisbane have been lined up to take part in the first phase of a human trial . . .

SBS News App, 26 May 2020.

27 May 2020

- **Year 10 Parent-Teacher interviews will be conducted via phone calls or Zoom meetings.**

Letter from Ms Trish Pollett, Head of Curriculum, to Parents and Carers, 27 May 2020.

29 May 2020

- Pharmaceutical company executives say one or several coronavirus vaccines could begin rolling out before 2021, as more than 100 laboratories around the world scramble to develop a treatment.

SBS News App, 29 May 2020.

31 May 2020

- **Monday 1 June is a significant day at PLCS as we welcome all students back on campus with the exception of those students whose parents have made contact with me to seek permission regarding a return to school date.**

Email from Mrs Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, to Senior School Staff, 31 May 2020.

1 June 2020

- From Monday 1 June – intrastate travel allowed, pubs and restaurants can have up to 50 customers, 20 people can attend weddings, museums, galleries, libraries and beauty salons will also reopen.

SBS News App, 1 June 2020.

9 June 2020

- **Dr Burgis notes that co-curricular activities are gradually resuming and advised that each activity has its own COVID-safe rules that must be followed.**

Principal's Briefing, 9 June 2020.

9 June 2020

- Global coronavirus tally surges past 7 million infections and 400,000 deaths

SBS News App, 9 June 2020.

10 June 2020

- All community sport allowed to resume in NSW from 1 July, both for adult community sport and children's sport.

SBS News App, 10 June 2020.

11 June 2020

- From 13 June households will be able to welcome up to 20 guests in addition to those already living in the house. Also from 13 June up to 20 people may gather in groups, food courts will be open as long as people can abide by the four-square-metre rule.

ABC News App, 11 June 2020.

12 June 2020

- The Prime Minister has announced that large venues will be able to host more than 100 people and stadiums will be allowed to be filled to 25 per cent capacity, provided the requirement of one person per four square metres is followed.

SBS News App, 12 June 2020.

15 June 2020

- **Competitive sport will resume from the start of Term 3.**
- **Year 12 students will be allowed to go to Croydon shops from 22 June, with some restrictions.**

Principal's Briefing, 15 June 2020.

16 June 2020

- Global coronavirus cases pass 8 million as outbreak expands in Latin America.

ABC News App, 16 June 2020.

21 June 2020

- Australia: 7,491 notified cases, 102 deaths.
- Globally: 8,708,008 cases, 461,715 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

23 June 2020

- The number of cases of coronavirus increase in Melbourne: since 13 June an average of 18 new infections were reported each day in the past week.

BBC News App, 23 June 2020.

23 June 2020

- NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian says don't "interact with people from Melbourne" as Victoria records 17 more coronavirus cases.

SBS News App, 23 June 2020.

24 June 2020

- **The annual House Choir Night was streamed to students and parents. Each House had pre-recorded their segment, following social distancing protocols, while Year 12 students were in the Audrey Keown Theatre.**

24 June 2020

- NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has described Victoria's coronavirus outbreaks as "a good wake-up call", as 10 new infections were confirmed in her state.

ABC News App, 24 June 2020.

25 June 2020

- Victoria seeks coronavirus support from the Australian Defence Force, Commonwealth and other states as it tries to tackle an increasing number of coronavirus infections in the community. The surge in cases in Victoria has pushed the national number of new cases per day to its highest in nine weeks.

ABC News App, 25 June 2020.

School holidays: 26 June – 22 July 2020

27 June 2020

- Scientists say coronavirus traces have been found in Spanish wastewater samples collected in Barcelona on 12 March 2019 – a year before the pandemic shook the world.

SBS News App, 27 June 2020.

29 June 2020

- The number of coronavirus infections recorded globally now stands at more than 10 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University tally. The United States, which has the biggest outbreak in the world, had recorded 2,510,323 cases.

SBS News App, 29 June 2020.

1 July 2020

- Further easing of restrictions in NSW – from today indoor venues including pubs, cafes and restaurants, can hold any number of people as long as they remain seated and stick to one person per four square metres. Weddings can have up to 20 guests, a maximum of 20,000 fans are allowed to fill stadiums for sporting or cultural events, and community sport can resume for kids and adults alike.

ABC News App, 1 July 2020.

1 July 2020

- Victoria reimposes "stay-at-home" orders on coronavirus hotspots for four weeks. The lockdown applies to 10 postcodes in western and northern Melbourne and could affect more than 300,000 people.

SBS News App, 1 July 2020.

5 July 2020

- Australia: 8,566 notified cases, 106 deaths.
- Globally: 11,125,245 cases, 528,204 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

6 July 2020

- The global Sustainable Development Report 2020, released this week in New York, ranks Australia third among OECD countries for the effectiveness of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, beaten only by South Korea and Latvia.

SBS News App, 6 July 2020.

6 July 2020

- The border between New South Wales and Victoria will close on Tuesday [7 July], marking the first time borders between the two states have been restricted since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

SBS News App, 6 July 2020.

7 July 2020

- Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews says metropolitan Melbourne will be put into a six-week lockdown after recording 191 new coronavirus infections on Tuesday.

SBS News App, 7 July 2020.

7 July 2020

- The Australian Defence Force will assist in what Gladys Berejiklian describes as a “mammoth task” to patrol the NSW-Victoria border when it closes tonight in a bid to stem the spread of COVID-19.

SBS News App, 7 July 2020.

8 July 2020

- The World Health Organization says the possibility of airborne transmission of the coronavirus cannot be ruled out, but more evidence needs to be gathered.

SBS News App, 8 July 2020.

10 July 2020

- Australia halves international arrivals and launches hotel quarantine inquiry. The cut in international arrivals will see 4,000 fewer people come to Australia each week.

SBS News App, 10 July 2020.

11 July 2020

- Australia’s first COVID-19 treatment option, Remdesivir, has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for people hospitalised with severe cases.

ABC News App, 11 July 2020.

12 July 2020

- The New South Wales taxpayer will no longer foot the entire bill for returning Australians in hotel quarantine, with arrivals to be charged up to \$3,000 each.

SBS News App, 12 July 2020.

12 July 2020

- The coronavirus pandemic has led to the largest-ever drop in greenhouse emissions, but also led to the loss of 150 million jobs worldwide.

SBS News App, 12 July 2020.

12 July 2020

- Victorian state school students from prep to Year 10 in lockdown zones will return to remote learning from July 20 as coronavirus cases continue to climb.

ABC News App, 12 July 2020.

13 July 2020

- The World Health Organization reported a record daily increase in global coronavirus cases, with the total rising by 230,370 on Sunday. Global coronavirus cases were approaching 13 million on Sunday (local time), marking another milestone in the spread of the disease.

ABC News App, 13 July 2020.

17 July 2020

- **A Google Form will be released to staff before PD Day on 20 July requiring them to acknowledge if they have been to Victoria or to any NSW hotspot or location prior to the PD Day. The form will include a link to the list of NSW hotspots. Staff are not to attend PD Day if they have visited any of these places within the time period indicated and must contact Deb Vitlin immediately.**

Email from Dr Sarah Golsby-Smith, Head Teacher, Learning and Teaching, to Staff, 17 July 2020.

17 July 2020

- NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced COVID-19 restrictions introduced to pubs will be extended to restaurants, bars, cafes and clubs – bookings limited to a maximum of 10 people, weddings and corporate events limited to 150 people, subject to the four square metre rule, funerals and places of worship limited to 100 people.

ABC News App, 17 July 2020.

19 July 2020

- Australia: 12,636 notified cases, 147 deaths.
- Globally: 14,043,176 cases, 597,583 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

19 July 2020

- From 11.59 pm on Wednesday (22 July), masks will be made compulsory for people who leave their homes in metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell shire.

SBS News App, 19 July 2020.

20 July 2020

- **Because of the recent increase in numbers of COVID-19 in the community, it was decided to hold the Staff Professional Development sessions via Zoom rather than in the Audrey Keown Theatre.**

21 July 2020

- Premier Gladys Berejiklian urges public to wear masks in public.
- An experimental vaccine being developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University against the coronavirus produced an immune response in early-stage clinical trials.

SBS News App, 21 July 2020.

23 July 2020

- **All visitors to the school must sign in, electronically or in hard copy. Parents are not permitted on the premises unless they have an authorised meeting. Receptionists will provide a daily updated hard copy of the hotspots list from the Department of Health for visitors to check.**

Email from Deb Vitlin, Head of Compliance and Human Resources, to Staff, 23 July 2020.

24 July 2020

- **The Senior School Leaders Installation Service is to be held online. Staff and students were given a link to the webinar.**

Email from Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, to Staff, 23 July 2020.

27 July 2020

- **Dr Burgis returns a negative COVID-19 test result. He had a cold and was tested.**

Email from Sabita Mathews, PA to the Principal, to all staff, 27 July 2020.

28 July 2020

- “COVID-19 has changed our world. It has brought people, communities and nations together – and driven them apart”. Director-General of World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. 30 July will mark six months since the WHO declared the virus an international public health emergency. More than 16 million cases have now been reported to the UN health agency, with more than 640,000 deaths worldwide.

SBS News App, 28 July 2020.

30 July 2020

- The coronavirus death toll in Victoria is expected to grow, as disaster medical teams arrive to tackle outbreaks in aged care facilities.

SBS News App, 30 July 2020.

31 July 2020

- **The Pamela Nutt Address will be delivered online this year to students at Assembly (7 August) and made available through the Portal to families. The speaker, Dr Sharon Dirckz, will pre-record her speech from England, where she lives. Consequently, this year there will not be a staff breakfast before the address.**

Weekly Letter to Staff from the Principal, 31 July 2020.

2 August 2020

- Australia: 18,367 notified cases, 240 deaths.
- Globally: 17,660,523 cases, 680,894 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

2 August 2020

- Victoria to move to stage 4 restrictions from today: night-time curfew, residents can only shop and exercise within 5 km of their home, exercise outside of the home allowed for only one hour at a time, students will return to home-based learning, etc.

BBC News App, 2 August 2020.

2 August 2020

- NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has issued a “strong recommendation” that people wear masks when on public transport or buying groceries; while working in customer-facing roles in hospitality or retail; when attending a place of worship; and if people are in an area of high community transmission.

ABC News App, 2 August 2020.

3 August 2020

- **COVID-19 Update produced outlining the procedure PLC Sydney would follow if we had a case of the virus in the school.**

COVID-19 Important Update, 3 August 2020.

5 August 2020

- Employees in Victoria will be required to carry a worker permit when they travel to their workplace as part of stage 4 restrictions.

ABC News App, 5 August 2020.

5 August 2020

- World Health Organization says young people going to nightclubs and beaches are leading a rise in COVID-19 cases around the world, with the rate of infection in those aged 15 to 24 rising from 4.5 % to 15%.

SBS News App, 5 August 2020.

6 August 2020

- **Letter outlining procedure if a member of the school community has a COVID-19 test.**

Letter to PLC Sydney Parents from the Principal, 6 August 2020.

7 August 2020

- **“I think we have to presume that there will be no COVID-19 vaccine. . . Therefore I am asking the Executive to plan for 2021 as if we are restructuring the College to enable excellent parent-teacher relations, positive student learning and well-being, creatively considered events and performances, and the continuation of our culture.”**
- **“The ‘close of school’ and graduation events [for Year 12] will go ahead in a modified form.”**
- **The Boarding House has been reconfigured to house 49 instead of 65.**

Weekly Letter to Staff from the Principal, 7 August 2020.

7 August 2020

- **“COVID-19 Leave” document outlines steps to be followed and types of leave applicable for staff and close contacts diagnosed or tested for COVID-19.**

Email from Deb Vitlin, Head of Compliance and Human Resources, to all Staff, 7 August 2020.

8 August 2020

- Returning Queenslanders must now arrive by air and spend 14 days in hotel quarantine at their own expense, with the state closing its border with NSW overnight.

SBS News App, 8 August 2020.

9 August 2020

- Victoria has recorded 394 new coronavirus cases and 17 deaths – the deadliest day of the pandemic in Australia so far.

SBS News App, 9 August 2020.

9 August 2020

- It’s hard to fathom, but it was only last weekend that Australia’s pandemic death toll topped 200. Now we’re looking at reaching a total of 300 deaths as early as tomorrow.

ABC News App, 9 August 2020.

10 August 2020

- **Speech Day will not be held at the ICC, but at the College. Only 150 persons could attend the event if held at the ICC.**

Staff Meeting Message from Dr Burgis, 10 August 2020.

11 August 2020

- Tangara School for Girls, a Catholic school in Cherrybrook in northwest Sydney, has closed its secondary campus until August 24 as 11 COVID-19 cases are linked to the school.

SBS News App, 11 August 2020.

13 August 2020

- Wearing face masks outside the home is mandatory in Melbourne and the NSW Premier is urging and recommending that citizens of NSW do the same, especially in public transport, grocery stores and places where it is not possible to socially distance. Hence an article “What kind of mask will protect you from coronavirus and are there some you should avoid?”

ABC News App, 13 August 2020.

13 August 2020

- Russia says the first batch of what it claims is the world’s first COVID-19 vaccine will be rolled out within two weeks and has rejected as “groundless” safety concerns aired by some experts. The vaccine, called “Sputnik V” in homage to the world’s first satellite launched by the Soviet Union in 1957, has yet to complete its final trials and some scientists said they fear Moscow may be putting national prestige before safety.

SBS News App, 13 August 2020.

13 August 2020

- A number of schools in Sydney’s west and northwest have closed temporarily because students have tested positive to COVID-19: Parramatta Public School, Our Lady of Mercy College, Tangara School for Girls, Eremeran Hills Study Centre.

SBS News App, 13 August 2020.

14 August 2020

- **“I write to tell you that St Vincent’s College has reported a positive case of Coronavirus. We received the news this morning that the affected student was in the St Vincent’s netball team that played our school (a Year 10 team) last weekend. We immediately identified the team, the sisters of the students in the team, the coach and any other adults at the game. We masked the students and checked their temperatures (none had an elevated temperature). We contacted families and had the students go home and be tested. This included a Year 12 student. . . I will write to you on or before Sunday evening with an update.”**

Letter to PLC Sydney Community from the Principal, 14 August 2020.

14 August 2020

- **“As a precaution, please ensure that you take your laptops home with you this weekend.”**

Email from Mrs Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, to Senior School Staff, 14 August 2020.

15 August 2020

- A police investigation has found a Catholic girls’ school in Sydney’s north west (Tangara School for Girls in Cherrybrook) did not breach COVID-19 public health safety orders.

16 August 2020

- Australia: 23,696 notified cases, 428 deaths.
- Globally: 21,028,995 cases, 761,160 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

17 August 2020

- **Letter outlines changes that have recently been made to the operational conditions for schools, related to COVID-19. Changes include ceasing operation of choirs and groups featuring wind instruments, inability to have a live audience for drama production *Matilda*, inability to play sporting teams outside of our region, organising for food from the canteen to be pre-ordered and collected to stop students from lining up, etc.**

Letter to PLC Sydney Community from the Principal, 17 August 2020.

17 August 2020

- **“If we have a case during school hours – reminder 1) We would enter a lockdown. 2) We would not be allowed to move any student until the Dept. of Health gave us the clearance. . . “**

Email from the Principal, to Staff, 17 August 2020.

17 August 2020

- **“Please do NOT use any aerosol products (such as Glen-20) to clean surfaces. The propellant used and the droplet size can cause an allergic reaction for asthmatics and others. Only use the pump-action spray bottles supplied by the school to clean surfaces.”**

Email from Deb Vitlin, Head of Compliance and Human Resources, to Staff, 17 August 2020.

17 August 2020

- **“Federal health minister Greg Hunt says he’s “cautiously but genuinely optimistic” that a coronavirus vaccine will be available by next year”.**

SBS News App, 17 August 2020.

18 August 2020

- **NSW bans school formals, choirs and social events. . . Chief Health Officer Kerry Chant said the rules applying to public schools would come into effect on Wednesday, but that she has written to private schools asking them to also abide.**

SBS News App, 18 August 2020.

18 August 2020

- **Tasmania to keep border closed until at least December amid Victoria’s coronavirus crisis.**

SBS News App, 18 August 2020.

18 August 2020

- **On Monday afternoon [yesterday] the City of Sydney council area was declared a coronavirus hotspot by NSW Health, amid concerns over undetected community transmission in the region’s east.**

SBS News App, 18 August 2020.

19 August 2020

- **Australia signs deal to secure nationwide supply of Oxford coronavirus vaccine if trials are successful. Currently UK-based drug company AstraZeneca is working on stage three trials of a vaccine with the University of Oxford.**

SBS News App, 19 August 2020.

20 August 2020

- **“It is a government requirement that we keep a register of all staff who have had a COVID-19 test and the results of that test.”**

Email from Deb Vitlin, Head of Compliance and Human Resources, to Staff, 20 August 2020.

20 August 2020

- **“Due to the new NSW Dept of Health COVID regulations for schools, all assemblies until further notice will be streamed into Home room classrooms.”**

Email from Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, to Staff, 20 August 2020.

20 August 2020

- Overnight, the federal government announced it had made arrangements to provide Australians 25 million free doses of a vaccine being developed at Oxford University if a promising trial proves successful.

SBS News App, 20 August 2020.

21 August 2020

- **New regulations directed by the NSW Department of Health for schools:**
- **You are expected to hold as many meetings with adults as possible via Zoom**
- **2. Where there are important reasons to meet face-to-face (say, in relation to a student well-being matter or in taking an enrolment tour on a Saturday) you are expected to keep a list of the members of the meeting. We need a central place to hold these. I think it should be Deb Vitlin’s office, so send them to Janine.**

List:

- a. **Names of people meeting**
 - b. **Date and time of meeting**
 - c. **Phone contacts**
- **3. As staff members you are expected to keep to your own cohort, or staff room, as much as possible. We are to minimise physical interactions between ourselves**
 - **4. It is critical that we maintain the cleaning regimes at a high level. We must maintain a high standard of cleanliness.**
 - **5. We are still investigating masks. I will have a word on them for you soon**
 - **6. We will ensure we separate all year groups into separate venues at each assembly**
- **What would happen to Year 12 if we had a Covid case in years Pre-K to 11 during the actual HSC?**
At the AHISA Principals-NESA meeting on August 19 we were informed that if we set aside an area of the College for Year 12 only, and a positive Covid-19 test arises in one of the other cohorts (i.e., Pre-K to Year 11), we will not need to undertake deep cleaning for the quarantined area and Year 12 can continue their exams unhindered. We will make the top level of Macindoe a quarantine area for Year 12 only (NO STAFF OR STUDENTS) from the start of term 4. It will enable us to keep Year 12 safe and ensure this important period of time is not interrupted. Of course, if the case was in year 12 the situation would be different and we would be in the hands of the NSW Department of Health.

Weekly Letter to Staff from the Principal, 21 August 2020.

22 August 2020

- “There’s a new language on everyone’s lips as we hit the road again in earnest”. . . with new words in our vocabulary such as hepa filters, immunity passport, enhanced/deep cleaning, no sail order, plate shaming, PPE, safecation, sanitagging, travel bubble, travel credit, virtual vacation, etc.

“New Words for a New World”, Michael Gebicki, Traveller, Sydney Morning Herald, 22 August 2020.

22 August 2020

- The Head of the World Health Organisation hopes the coronavirus pandemic will be shorter than the 1918 Spanish flu and last less than two years.

SBS News App, 22 August 2020.

23 August 2020

- This week marks six months since the Prime Minister moved ahead of the World Health Organisation, and most other countries, to declare the coronavirus a pandemic. On that day in late February, there were already 22 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Australis, mostly people who had come directly from Wuhan.

ABC News App, 23 August 2020.

24 August 2020

- Facemasks with transparent shields around the mouth are being used to help the deaf and hard of hearing during the coronavirus pandemic.

SBS News App, 24 August 2020.

24 August 2020

- Scientists searching for a COVID-19 vaccine have received assistance from an unlikely source – Australia’s top spies. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has been working with medical institutions and scientific organisations to ensure their highly sought-after research is not stolen.

ABC News App, 24 August. 2020.

26 August 2020

- Some religious leaders in Australia have voiced ethical concerns over the potential Oxford vaccine. Their concerns are over the use of cell lines from an electively aborted foetus. Some religious leaders have written to the Prime Minister, urging him to reconsider a deal to purchase 25 million doses of the vaccine.

SBS News App, 26 August 2020.

28 August 2020

- **In planning the school calendar for 2021, we will need to have both a “COVID” version and a “normal” version in order to be able to respond to how things may be at the time.**
- **This week about 200 principals of independent schools met with Dr Kerry Chant (NSW Chief Health Officer) on Zoom to discuss a range of matters relating to new guidelines. Here is a summary of the guidelines:**
 - We are being asked to keep students in distinct groups (years, co-curricular groups etc.) to enable contact tracing to work more easily. We can now gather students in Houses if they meet outside with distancing. We can also gather students in year groups for a limited time.**
 - Masks are advised for older students but not compulsory.**
 - Year 12 will be able to have events as a year group together before their exams. The good news is that we will be able to hold an event with parents, under strict conditions, after the HSC examinations.**

-We do not have to follow the Department of Education zones for Sport. We can create our own. PLC Sydney is now in a region with MLC, Meriden and others. Sport can continue in this regionalised format.

-In Music, soloists can perform as long as the singer is equal to or below the audience physically. Brass instruments can operate at 1.5 metres. Wind instruments (flute, clarinet, recorder) at 3 metres. I note here that PLC Sydney is branching out into ukuleles now in order to create something positive out of a tricky situation.

-No camps can go ahead.

-Therapists and peripatetic staff can continue their work on campus.

Weekly Letter to Staff from the Principal, 28 August 2020.

28 August 2020

- A new vaccine can take in excess of 10 years to develop, but with more than 150 COVID-19 vaccines currently in development, there are hopes a prospective candidate could be available as early as this year. One of Australia's leading vaccine candidates – being developed by the University of Queensland – has yielded positive pre-clinical trial results, with preliminary results from human trials expected by the end of September. The urgency to get a vaccine must be tempered with the need to go through all the necessary checks and balances.

ABC News App, 28 August 2020.

30 August 2020

- Australia: 25,686 notified cases, 577 deaths.
- Globally: 24,854,748 cases, 838,926 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

31 August 2020

- **Black watch tartan face mask now available from the Uniform Shop.**

31 August 2020

- Australia is one of the only democracies in the world that has banned its citizens from leaving the country as a public health measure during the coronavirus pandemic. The ban was implemented on 25 March and is set to end on 24 October, though is likely to be extended.

ABC News App, 31 August 2020.

31 August 2020

- NSW Opposition Leader Jodi McKay calls on the Premier Gladys Berejiklian to mandate masks on public transport as entire busload of Sydney passengers told to self-isolate.

SBS News App, 31 August 2020.

1 September 2020

- **The protocol for reporting absentees for COVID-19 testing outlined to parents:**
 1. **If your daughter has cold or flu-like symptoms she must stay home and get a COVID test.**
 2. **Your daughter will also need to stay at home if a family member in the home has a COVID test.**
 3. **Only students who are awaiting a COVID test result for themselves or a family member will be granted access to classes via zoom.**
 4. **Please ensure that you inform the absentee office via the absentee portal tile before 8am on the day of your daughter's absence as classes commence at 8:20 and we need to notify teachers as soon as possible of**

students who are online so that they can set up their zoom connection for the day.

5. Please report COVID absences each day that your daughter or family member is getting or awaiting test results.
6. Your daughter will need to bring in or email through the COVID test results on her return to school. This way we can keep an accurate record of students who are awaiting COVID results and those who are cleared.

Communication to parents from Linda Chiba, Deputy Principal, 1 September 2020.

3 September 2020

- A new poll has found that Australians are slacking off on COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. Overall, 94.3 % of Australians surveyed in April said they had always or mostly avoided crowded places in the previous seven days, but that figure dropped to 72.2 % in August. Those who always or mostly avoided public places fell even further, down from 86.5 % to 55.8%.

6 September 2020

- Melbourne residents will see the city's Stage 4 lockdown extended by at least another two weeks under the government's roadmap to reopening the state.

SBS News App, 6 September 2020.

7 September 2020

- The Morrison government has announced free COVID-19 vaccines would be made available progressively through 2021, should promising trials (being conducted by Oxford University and the University of Queensland) prove successful.

SBS News App, 7 September 2020.

8 September 2020

- **The College conducted a COVID-19 lockdown drill so that staff and students would know what would happen “should we have to close the school because we have been notified about a positive case of COVID-19 in the school”. Briefly, the Principal would notify parents; parents would be required to collect students from the school, at designated times from designated areas; no student would be permitted to leave the school, they must be picked up.**

Letter to Staff from Dr Burgis, 7 September 2020.

8 September 2020

- The 150 boarders at Kincoppal Rose Bay in Sydney's east have been sent home after a girl was diagnosed with COVID-19.

SBS News App, 8 September 2020.

10 September 2020

- **160 choristers in both the Junior and Seniors schools are part of a “Virtual Choir Project” to continue to make music together, while being apart.**

Connections, 10 September 2020.

11 September 2020

- Almost one-third of Australians blame the coronavirus pandemic on the Chinese community. When presented with the statement “most COVID-19 cases were brought to Australia by Chinese people”, 31 per cent of respondents believed it was either “definitely” or “probably” true. The poll, conducted by Essential Media on behalf of the Asian Australian Alliance, surveyed 1,010 Australians during early August.

SBS News App, 11 September 2020.

11 September 2020

- Schoolies celebrations – what you can and can't do under the rules – notice issued by NSW Government giving advice to Year 12 students on how to plan and enjoy end of secondary school celebrations in COVID-19 safe ways.

Help Us Save Lives Schoolies Celebrations, NSW Government

12-13 September 2020

- Year 12 formals and graduation ceremonies will happen this year, but with differences. Students will have to bring their own pens to sign each other's yearbook or T-shirts, each student can invite two people from their immediate family or household to their graduation ceremony, dancing is permitted but must be outdoors or in well-ventilated areas, and students can only dance with partners who are from the school, the same local community, or who have had a relationship with the group and normally socialise with the student cohort.

"Choose your dance partner wisely", Sydney Morning Herald, 12-13 September 2020, p. 17.

13 September 2020

- Australia: 26,753 notified cases, 674 deaths.
- Globally: 28,640,529 cases, 917,404 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

14 September 2020

- **The production of *Matilda* will have four performances: two in the last week of Term 3 for students (streamed to various classrooms) and two during the holidays when parents can attend (Audrey Keown Theatre).**
- **During the HSC exams Year 12 students will gather each morning in a marquee that has been set up. The exams will take place on Level 3 of Macindoe Research Centre, where we can adhere to the 75 in a room rule. In the case of English and Maths exams, where there are more than 75 candidates, the new science labs will also be used. On those days (20 21 and 26 October) some year groups will have online learning. It is important that the Year 12 students come to school, take their exam, and then go home.**

Staff Meeting Message from the Principal, 14 September 2020.

18 September 2020

- **Year 12 Informal Assembly Day, adjusted to be "COVID-19 safe", students and relevant staff only**

18 September 2020

- Rich nations, including Australia, have snapped up over half the future supply of coronavirus vaccines. Despite representing 13 per cent of the global population, wealthy nations have already secured the lion's share of doses, Oxfam has warned.

SBS News App, 18 September 2020.

18 September 2020

- Experts are calling on the Federal Government to release details of how it intends to distribute approved COVID-19 vaccines across the country, saying Australians deserve information about who is likely to get the drug first.

ABC News App, 18 September 2020.

19-20 September 2020

- NSW's overall death rate has fallen in the midst of the pandemic, as physical distancing, hand hygiene measures, and other restrictions protect the vulnerable from more than just the new virus.

20 September 2020

- Premier Gladys Berejiklian says NSW will be joining the Federal Government's pandemic leave disaster payment scheme, which allows those directed to self-isolate because of COVID-19 to access a lump sum payment of \$1,500.

SBS News App, 20 September 2020.

20 September 2020

- The Federal Government is investing almost \$6 million in additional research and development for three Australian COVID-19 vaccines. The additional funding will go to the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney.

SBS News App, 20 September 2020.

21 September 2020

- **Year 12 Graduation Service and Principal's Lunch, adjusted to be "COVID-19 safe", students and relevant staff only.**

24 September 2020

- Further restrictions in NSW will be eased including: school choirs can gather with a maximum of five singers, school music ensembles can restart with an unlimited number of people as long as social distancing is practised, inter-school and zone sporting competitions, school camps and excursions, on campus school programs with parents including reading groups, Kindergarten and Year 7 orientations.

ABC News App, 24 September 2020. More details in letter from Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Ministry of Health, to school communities and community sports organisations, 24 September 2020.

School holidays: 24 September – 13 October 2020

27 September 2020

- Australia: 27,095 notified cases, 835 deaths.
- Globally: 32,730,204 cases, 991,211 deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

28 September 2020

- NSW has recorded no new coronavirus cases for the first time in three months. NSW Health's Dr Christine Selvey said the last time the state recorded no new cases in a reporting period was on June 10.

ABC News App, 28 September 2020.

29 September 2020

- Economists have praised Australia's welfare response to the coronavirus pandemic, but they also said there's room for improvement. According to the International Monetary Fund's policy tracker, which summarises the key economic responses governments have taken to limit the impacts of the pandemic, Australia's fiscal response ranks among the highest in the developed world.

SBS News App, 29 September 2020.

29 September 2020

- JobKeeper payments for millions of Australians are being wound back as the federal government adjusts its response to the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. From Monday, the wage subsidy is being reduced from \$1,500 a fortnight to \$1,200 a fortnight for full-time workers.

SBS News App, 29 September 2020.

29 September 2020

- NSW is unlikely to wipe out COVID-19 until a vaccine is available despite the state recording no new infections for two days in a row, health experts have warned.

ABC News App, 29 September 2020.

29 September 2020

- The global coronavirus death toll has now passed one million.

SBS News App, 29 September 2020.

2 October 2020

- Boarding school students permitted to cross the NSW-Victorian border and travel restrictions for Lord Howe Island lifted.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly), 11 October 2020.

2, 3, and 5 October 2020

- US President Donald Trump tested positive to COVID-19 on 2 October. On 3 October he was moved to Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre as a precautionary measure. He received an intravenous dose of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals' dual antibody and also took zinc, vitamin D, famotidine, melatonin and aspirin. Speculation as to the possible impact on the US general election on 3 November. He returned to the White House on 5 October.

SBS and ABC News Apps, 3 and 6 October 2020.

3 October 2020

- NSW has recorded its eighth consecutive day with no locally-acquired COVID-19 cases, with just one case in hotel quarantine confirmed.

SBS News App, 3 October 2020.

3 October 2020

- People from New Zealand will soon be able to travel to NSW and the Northern Territory without having to quarantine, after the federal government negotiated the first stage of a trans-Tasman bubble.

SBS News App, 3 October 2020.

6 October 2020

- NSW has recorded no locally acquired COVID-19 cases for the 11th day in a row.

ABC News App, 6 October 2020.

11 October 2020

- Australia: 27,344 notified cases, 898 deaths.
- Globally: 37,109,113 cases, "deaths reported to WHO passing one million"

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

12 October 2020

- Australia is in talks with Japan, South Korea, Singapore and South Pacific nations on reopening travel as coronavirus infections ease, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Sunday.

SBS News App, 12 October 2020.

12 October 2020

- The latest research from the CSIRO found the coronavirus was “extremely robust” and can survive for 28 days on smooth surfaces such as glass found on mobile phone screens and both plastic and paper banknotes, when kept at 20C, which is about room temperature.

BBC News App, 12 October 2020.

14 October 2020

- From Friday 16 October restrictions will be eased for outdoor dining establishments, allowing one patron per two square metres (rather than four square metres) but it will be dependent on the use of an electronic QR code to record patrons’ contact details.

SBS News App, 14 October 2020.

19 October 2020

- The NSW Premier has announced more easing of restrictions around gatherings after the state recorded zero local cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours. From Friday, 23 October, the number of people who can attend weddings will be lifted to 300 and group bookings at restaurants will be increased to 30 people, but the guests must be seated, no “mingling” is allowed.

ABC News App, 19 October 2020.

20 October 2020

- **Year 12 students begin Higher School Certificate examinations. COVID-19 safe protocols include: wearing a mask if they come to school on public transport; not talking with younger students as they proceed directly to the marquee or examination room; being screened by both questionnaire and by temperature check; examination rooms will be cleaned after each exam; students must leave school premises once they have finished an exam; if they have a second exam that day they go to the McQueen Seminar Room to study.**

Letter from the Principal to Parents and also Weekly letter to Staff, 16 October 2020.

20, 21 and 26 October 2020

- **In order to protect the Year 12 students during the HSC English and Maths exams, which require the use of more rooms than the other exams of the HSC, Years 7,8 and 11 are to stay at home and engage in online learning on these days, as per the process utilised during the lockdown period earlier this year.**

“Term 4 Online Learning Days for Senior School”, PLACES, College website.

21 October 2020

- Having endured a tougher than usual final school year due to coronavirus disruptions, thousands of Year 12 students in NSW have begun sitting their HSC exams. The exams continue until 11 November.

SBS News App, 21 October 2020.

25 October 2020

- Australia: 27,582 notified cases, 905 deaths.
- Globally: over 42.5 million cases, 1.14 million deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

27 October 2020

- The lockdown in Melbourne ends. From 28 October Melburnians can leave home for any reason as the city “opens up”.

SBS News App, 27 October 2020.

28 October 2020

- Hundreds of students from more than 20 high schools across Sydney that were sitting the final HSC Biology exam were evacuated after the schools received threatening emails. Police and the bomb squad were called in to investigate. Most students returned to the exam room and completed the exam. Mark Scott, NSW Department of Education Secretary said that no student will be penalised or disadvantaged by the disruptions.

ABC News online, 28 October 2020.

1 November 2020

- Australia marks first 4 hours of no community coronavirus transmissions in almost five months

SBS News App, 1 November 2020.

3 November 2020

- New survey sheds light on how the coronavirus crisis has harmed Asian-Australian communities. A university survey shows the majority of Asian-Australian respondents experienced more discrimination this year than in 2019 and they were more likely to have work hours cut.

SBS News App 3 November 2020.

5 November 2020

- The Morrison government has entered into four agreements with coronavirus vaccine makers, paving the way for a 2021 rollout if they prove safe and effective. This means Australia will have access to 134 million doses of coronavirus vaccines.

SBS News App, 5 November 2020.

8 November 2020

- Australia: 27,743 cumulative cases, 904 deaths.
- Globally: over 49.5 million cases, 1.24 million deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

10 November 2020

- A vaccine jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was 90 per cent effective in preventing COVID-19 infections in ongoing Phase 3 trials, the companies announced on Monday.

SBS News App 10 November 2020.

11 November 2020

- **Last day of HSC examinations for Year 12 students.**

13 November 2020

- **To comply with COVID restrictions for social distancing and number of people who can gather in one place, the Year 12 Graduation Dinner was held in a marquee set up on Drummond Field.**

16 November

- The various Awards Nights will be streamed to students and parents to watch from home
- Speech Day will be filmed on Friday 4 December. Students in Years 5-8 receiving awards will be filmed at 8.00 am in the Audrey Keown Theatre, followed at 9.30 am for students receiving prizes in Years 9-12. Parents will be able to attend these sessions. The rest of Speech Day will be filmed later during the day.
- Speech Day will be streamed on Monday 7 December. Students are expected to watch from home at 10.00 am. Academic staff (and perhaps admin staff, space permitting) will watch the film in the Audrey Keown Theatre. The staff lunch will be in Thompson Hall this year, with farewells and drinks following.

Principal's Staff Meeting Message, 16 November 2020.

16 November 2020

- The federal government has struck a \$1 billion deal to safeguard Australia's long-term access to flu and fever vaccines, as well as life-saving antivenoms. Australia will build the southern hemisphere's largest flu vaccine manufacturing plant in a bid to shore up its response to future pandemics.

SBS News App, 16 November 2020.

17 November 2020

- Global hopes of overcoming the coronavirus pandemic were boosted after a second vaccine (being developed by pharmaceutical company Moderna) was found to be nearly 95 per cent effective in a trial.

SBS News App, 17 November 2020.

22 November 2020

- Australia: 27,892 notified cases, 907 deaths.
- Globally: over 57.8 million cases, 1.37 million deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

22 November 2020

- NSW's three-month border checkpoint operation with Victoria will end at midnight 22 November 2020. Premier Gladys Berejiklian said "All Australians are welcomed in NSW, all New Zealanders are welcome to NSW without quarantine".

SBS News App, 22 November 2020.

22 November 2020

- An Australian-developed nasal spray that aims to treat respiratory infections like COVID-19 will be tested thanks to a funding boost. The INNA-051 nasal treatment has been developed by Australian biotech company Ena Respiratory.

SBS News App, 22 November 2020.

24 November 2020

- British drugs group AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford say their jointly developed vaccine against COVID-19 has shown "an average efficacy of 70 per cent" in trials. The company says it can produce up to three billion doses in 2021.

SBS News App, 24 November 2020.

24 November 2020

- Queensland will open its borders to greater Sydney on 1 December, the Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk announced.

SBS News App, 24 November 2020.

30 November 2020

- **Updated COVID-19 guidelines announced for schools, including: Excursions, overnight camps and field trips in other states can recommence from 1 December. Outdoor singing is allowed to a maximum of 30 singers; 5 singers permitted inside. Preschool orientation programs can go ahead. The whole staff can now gather together, there is no limit to numbers. Physical distancing rules remain. End of year staff events can proceed.**

Email from the Principal to Staff, 30 November 2020.

30 November 2020

- NSW has recorded its 22nd consecutive day without a locally-acquired case of COVID-19 as it inches closer to the benchmark for virus elimination.

SBS News App, 30 November 2020.

2 December 2020

- Britain will be the first country in the world to approve a new COVID-19 vaccine from pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, working with German biotech company BioNTech. The UK government said it has approved the vaccine for use and that it will be rolled out from next week.

SBS News App, 2 December 2020.

2 December 2020

- NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announces further easing of restrictions from 7 December, including no caps on patron numbers at hospitality venues, weddings and funerals, stadiums and outdoor theatres will be allowed to operate at 100 per cent capacity, etc.

SBS News App, 2 December 2020.

6 December 2020

- Australia: cumulative case count 28,049; 908 deaths.
- Globally: over 65.8 million cases, 1.5 million deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published fortnightly rather than weekly)

7 December 2020

- **Speech Day was live-streamed from Audrey Keown Theatre. Speeches and prize winners were filmed on 4 December and aired on the day. Students watched from home. The staff luncheon was held in Thompson Hall.**

School holidays: 7 December 2020 – 28 January 2021

9 December 2020

- Britain began the mass-vaccination of its population against COVID-19 on Tuesday 8 December, becoming the first Western nation to do so in a global endeavour that poses one of the biggest logistical challenges in peacetime history.

SBS News App, 9 December 2020.

18 December 2020

- **HSC results were announced:**
49% of PLC Sydney students were in the top 10% of the State.
8% of PLC Sydney students (12 students) were in the top 1% of the State.
Our highest ATAR was 99.75.
PLC Sydney ranked 22nd in the State* (SMH ranking 20th in 2019 and 17th in 2018). *21st in the State if we include Jennivine Chen (please see Cambridge A Levels below for explanation)
11 students were named in the Top Achievers List (i.e. they earned top 20 places in individual subjects).
17 students were named in the All-rounder Achievers List (i.e. scored over 90% in every subject)

PLC Sydney website, 18 December 2020.

19 December 2020

- A COVID cluster in Sydney's Northern Beaches has grown to 41 cases; the area will go into lockdown from 5.00 pm 19 December until midnight Wednesday 23 December.

SBS News App, 19 December 2020.

19 December 2020

- The 2020 Sydney to Hobart race has been cancelled for the first time in its history due to coronavirus restriction complications.

SBS News App, 19 December 2020.

21 December 2020

- Because of the COVID cluster in the Northern Beaches, new health orders will apply from 20 – 23 December (at least), including reverting to the four-square-metre rule, indoor gatherings limited to 300 people, weddings capped at 20 people. Dancing, singing and chanting will also be limited to five people in places of worship.

SBS News App, 21 December 2020.

22 December 2020

- There are now at least 83 COVID cases linked to the Northern Beaches cluster.

SBS News App, 22 December 2020.

22 December 2020

- From 6 am today Queensland will shut its border with NSW, amid concerns about the COVID outbreak in Sydney.

SBS News App, 22 December 2020.

22 December 2020

- A new variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19, is thought to be driving increased transmission of the disease in some parts of the UK, including London.

SBS News App, 22 December 2020.

23 December 2020

- The coronavirus has landed in Antarctica, the last continent previously free from COVID-19. At least 36 people have been infected at Chile's Bernardo O'Higgins base.

SBS News App, 23 December 2020.

28 December 2020

- New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney curtailed; 9.00 pm fireworks cancelled, midnight fireworks reduced to seven minutes, foreshore parks closed, residents encouraged to stay at home and watch the fireworks on television.

ABC News App, 28 December 2020.

31 December 2020

- A "Croydon cluster" emerges as three adults and three children from one extended family have tested positive to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours.

ABC News App, 31 December 2020.

1 January 2021

- The Australian government could grant final approval for the AstraZenica/Oxford vaccine by late January, according to AstraZenica Australia.

SBS News App, 1 January 2021.

2 January 2021

- NSW Premier makes masks mandatory indoors for Greater Sydney residents – supermarkets, shopping centres, cinemas and indoor entertainment venues, public transport, beauty salons and hairdressers, places of worship and gaming areas. Compliance will start from Monday 4 January with a \$200 on the spot fine for individuals who fail to wear a mask indoors.

SBS News App, 2 January 2021.

3 January 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 28,574; 909 deaths.
- Globally: over 83.3 million cases, 1.8 million deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (now published monthly)

4 January 2021

- The federal government has announced 10 million for clinical trials of some coronavirus-related technologies that if successful may reduce the infection risk for workers in healthcare and aged care settings. These include ultraviolet light to treat air in aged care facilities and custom 3D printed designs to improve fact mask efficiency for healthcare workers.

SBS News App, 4 January 2021.

10 January 2021

- The coronavirus vaccine rollout is now expected to begin in Australia next month, almost six weeks earlier than the Government originally expected. Australia has secured 10 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 53.8 million of the AstraZenica vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is made overseas and needs to be shipped and stored at -70 degrees Celsius. Accordingly, more people will receive the locally made AstraZeneca vaccine.

ABC News App, 10 January 2021.

17 January 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 28,696; 909 deaths.
- Globally: figures not given

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (published fortnightly)

21 January 2021

- **Current government guidelines for schools include:**
Students should be at school unless they have a medical certificate or they are unwell.
Staff can meet together face to face.
Students can meet in cohorts and houses.
Excursions can be held.
Art and cultural events can be held.
All co-curricular and sporting events, including the Swimming and Diving Carnival, can be held.
Choir practices will go ahead, operating outdoors.

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Staff, 21 January 2021.

25 January 2021

- The first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Australia, in Melbourne, one year ago today. Since then there have been more than 28,000 cases in Australia and more than 90 million worldwide. Health workers are still learning about the virus, but early findings estimate up to 20 % of people diagnosed with COVID-19 experience symptoms that last months.
- The Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been provisionally approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia.

SBS News App, 25 January 2021.

27 January 2021

- The Government has announced the national rollout of who will be vaccinated and when. This is the order: phase 1: quarantine and border workers, priority frontline healthcare workers, aged and disability care staff and residents; phase 2: people over 70, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 55, younger adults with underlying medical conditions or disabilities, general healthcare workers; phase 3: adults 50-69 and all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 18, other critical and high risk workers; phase 4: the remainder of the adult population; phase 5: people under 18.

SBS News App, 27 January 2021.

31 January 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 28,794; 909 deaths.
- Globally: over 102 million cases, 2.2 million deaths

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au (published fortnightly)

8 February 2021

- Australians to access coronavirus vaccine certificates on smartphone apps. The vaccine certificates may be needed to gain entry to certain high-risk venues such as aged care facilities, etc.

SBS News App, 8 February 2021.

12 February 2021

- Coronavirus restrictions eased in Greater Sydney – masks are now optional in hairdressers, beauty salons, places of worship and hospitality, but remain mandatory on public transport, in taxis and Ubers. Twice as many customers will be allowed in cafes and restaurants.

SBS News App, 12 February 2021.

14 February 2021

- NSW has now recorded 28 consecutive days of no locally acquired COVID-19 cases – the longest stretch with no community transmission since the pandemic began.

ABC News App, 14 February 2021.

14 February 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 28,868; 909 deaths.
- Globally: figures not given

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

15 February 2021

- **Implications of easing of COVID restrictions on various school events: annual church service will take place in Thompson Hall this year (allows increased social distancing); parent-teacher evenings can take place and parents and teachers will be able to meet face-to-face; school is applying to governmental authority to hold Open Day & Fair following major events protocol and will prepare COVID plan for this (individual stall holders will not be allowed this year)**

Principal's comments to Staff at Weekly Staff Meeting, 15 February 2021.

15 February 2021

- The first doses (142,000) of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine have touched down in Australia as preparations continue for the first stage of the national rollout. People will begin receiving the vaccine from Monday 22 February.

ABC News App, 15 February 2021.

22 February 2021

- **Current restrictions for spectators at school co-curricular activities: no spectators will be allowed to attend training sessions or rehearsals. Spectators will be allowed at competitions, performances, and special events held on the PLC Sydney campus. Different restrictions may apply for different events based on COVID regulations.**

Notices on PLC Sydney Places, February 2021.

22 February 2021

- Australia's coronavirus vaccine rollout has begun. More than 60,000 doses are expected to be administered by the end of the week. The initial rollout is of the Pfizer vaccine but most Australians will receive the Oxford-AstraZenica jab.

ABC News App, 22 February 2021.

- Frontline workers including police officers have started receiving COVID-19 vaccinations in NSW, with 35,000 jabs to be administered in the next three weeks. The rollout started at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred, Westmead and Liverpool hospitals today.

SBS News App, 22 February 2021.

25 February 2021

- Single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19. In large clinical trials, the vaccine's efficacy against severe disease was 85.9% in the US, 81.7% in South Africa, and 87.6% in Brazil.

SBS News App, 25 February 2021.

28 February 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 28,937; 909 deaths. As at 28 February, 33,702 Australians had received one dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- Globally: over ;113 million cases and 2.5 million deaths.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

28 February 2021

- Australia has received its first overseas shipment of the Oxford-AstraZenaca COVID-19 vaccine (300,000 doses) as it looks to ramp up its national vaccination program

SBS News App, 28February 2021.

7 March 2021

- **Beginning March 8, at PLC Sydney, the following practices will be implemented:**
 - *Parents and carers are able to enter school grounds but should continue to follow COVID safe practices, including social distancing between adults of 1.5 metres,
 - *Parents and carers can attend school sporting events, including practices. School sporting events at PLC Sydney will align with requirements for community sporting competitions and training activities in NSW,
 - *Students are able to mix together across year groups or other cohorts for all school related activities,
 - *Activities involving musical instruments can proceed. Students playing non-reeded woodwind instruments such as flutes and recorders should be positioned so that they can maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres from all persons (including other members of the musical group). They must also maintain a minimum 3 metres space between the direction of airflow from their instruments and other performers,
 - *There are no recommended limits on singing groups in schools, including for in-class educational activities including repetition, chanting, recitation, or singing activities. Five metres is recommended between a group of performing singers and other people, including the audience and conductor, where practicable,
 - *Dancing activities, including dance classes, formals and social events, can proceed, with organisers complying with any venue restrictions,
 - *Boarding schools have had restrictions lifted on separating cohorts of students to assist in their rooming arrangements and general organisation. Ms Turner will communicate further with boarding families when she returns from leave this week. (I thank Mrs Harding and Ms Hayek for stepping in on her behalf at short notice recently. Ms Hayek returns to her duties with the Transition class this week).

Letter from the Principal to PLC Sydney Staff, 7 March 2021.

14 March 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 29,051; 909 deaths.
- As at 14 March 2021, 164,437 Australians have received a COVID-19 vaccine.
- A cumulative total of 14,933,604 tests have been conducted in Australia. The cumulative nationwide proportion of positive tests remains low at 0.2%.
- Globally: figures not given

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

17 March 2021

- Germany, France and Italy announced yesterday that they will stop administering the AstraZeneca vaccine after several countries reported possible serious side effects, including blood clotting.

SBS News App, 17 March 2021.

28 March 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 29,192; 909 deaths.
- As at 28 March 2021, 541,761 Australians have received a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Globally: cumulative cases and deaths now exceed 126 million and 2.7 million respectively.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

5 April 2021

- The number of general practices involved in the national coronavirus vaccine rollout is expected to double to 3,000 by the end of the week and rise to 4,000 by the end of the month.

SBS News App, 5 April 2021.

6 April 2021

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced a two-way, quarantine-free, travel bubble with Australia will begin at 11.59 pm on 18 April.

SBS News App, 6 April 2021.

8 April 2021

- Australia's drug regulators are holding urgent meetings after European authorities confirmed a link between the AstraZeneca vaccine and blood clots.

SBS News App, 8 April 2021.

9 April 2021

- The link of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to rare blood clots has caused the government to decide that the Pfizer vaccine is the preferred shot for adults in Australia under the age of 50.
- Therefore, the government has secured another 20 million Pfizer vaccine doses, meaning the country is expected to receive a total of 40 million Pfizer doses in 2021.

SBS News App 9 April 2021.

11 April 2021

- Australia: cumulative case count 29,304 with 909 deaths.
- As at 12 April 2021, 1,234,681 doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered.
- Globally: statistics not given.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiology Reports, Australia, 2020, www1.health.gov.au

11 April 2021

- After the set-back with the AstraZeneca vaccine, the government is now aiming to have all Australians inoculated with at least one dose of coronavirus vaccine by the end of the year.

SBS News App, 11 April 2021.

12 April 2021

- The government has abandoned meeting a fixed timeline for its COVID-19 vaccination rollout. An initial target of October has proven unachievable due partly to dosage import delays and health concerns, with an end-of-year timeframe also off the table.

SBS News App, 12 April 2021.

Last updated: 23 April 2021
Compiled by Debby Cramer, Archivist
Series 76\COVID-19 Pandemic 2020\COVIC-19 Pandemic 2020 Timeline