

## FACE-COVERING / MASKS – FROM MONDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2020

Following yesterday's announcement regarding face-coverings / masks in Victoria, we advised that we would update you with how this looks in schools. Basically, as of Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August:

- School-based staff must wear face coverings at school, and when travelling to and from school. This includes teachers, Office staff, education support, OSHC staff, support staff – basically any adult working on site at Big Hill PS.
- Teachers and education support staff will not be required to wear face coverings **while teaching**, but those who wish to do so, can. Teachers and other staff should wear face coverings in other areas of the school when not involved in direct face-to-face teaching (for example, in the staffroom, on yard duty and when providing first aid or taking temperatures), and when travelling to and from school.
- Students **will not be** required to wear a face covering. Students who are aged 12 or over by Year 6 **will not be** required to wear face coverings. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that it is not practical to require some primary school students to wear face coverings while others are not required. Children are welcome to wear an appropriate face mask at school if they wish to.
- Some staff are exempt from these requirements. This includes staff who have a medical condition - including problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition.
- Parents, carers, older siblings, family / friends **will be** required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up. If they are travelling in a car alone, or only with members of their household, they do not need to wear a mask. If you are transporting a child or person from another family, masks must be worn.

Whilst this arrangement may have seemed obvious to some yesterday, in a school setting, we have some subtle differences to the General Public (ie: 12 year olds not having to wear masks in a Primary School), thus the need to wait for exact advice from the Chief Medical Advisor.

Hopefully, this update makes it clear for all on Monday what is required.

Kind regards,

Matt Pearce  
PRINCIPAL