

Dear Parents,

I hope this email finds you well.

Apologies in advance for the lengthy email but I wanted to ensure you had all the relevant information in regard to the most recent announcements. I am sure by now most of you have heard the announcement made on July 7<sup>th</sup> that schools in Greater Sydney will not return to face-to-face learning on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

So the question is, what does this mean for Woodbury/ Rubens?

The NSW Health department recommends that **everyone stay at home where possible**. Trips outside the home should be limited to essential activities. This recommendation is to minimise the spread of COVID-19 through community transmission; The current Delta variant of COVID is more easily transmissible meaning you are more likely to catch the virus and are more likely to pass it on. Adhering to the recommendation to stay home is key to minimising the spread of the virus. The last thing we want is to have a COVID case within our school community; everyone's health and safety is of the utmost importance.

Based on this, the advice is that **students should engage in their regular learning activities from home**, if at all possible. The NSW department of health strongly recommends that children stay at home if they can.

NSW health has applied 4 levels of risk with differentiated guidelines based on geographical areas. At this stage Greater Sydney is in level 4 which is the highest level of restrictions in relation to schooling.

However, the Department of Education recognise that this is not a simple "one size fits all" decision. There are many extenuating circumstances which mean learning from home is not an option for some children. As such **schools are required to remain open for students who need them and no child is to be turned away from school**. As a provider of direct therapies within early childhood **Ruben's place is considered an essential service**.

These statements place a lot of responsibility on you, as parents, to decide the right course of action for yourselves and your families.

Woodbury will be here for you regardless of whether you decide to send your child in to school or keep them home for learning. We recognise that home-schooling and working from home faces many, many challenges, especially for our students. We are here for you to offer advice and discuss options with you, but we cannot make this decision for you.

For students who attend Woodbury lessons will run "as normal" with additional measures in place to ensure everyone's health and safety. Our updated COVID-19 plan will be distributed tomorrow outlining the procedures we have in place.

For students who learn from home, your teaching team will be in touch to support and facilitate this process. We recognise that your typical "zoom classroom" is not an option and even 1:1 sessions via zoom face many barriers. As such, we will follow the same protocol we successfully implemented during remote learning last April. Our teachers will provide daily packs of materials with activities and suggestions for learning outcomes within these activities, we will arrange zoom meetings on a weekly basis with your teacher or clinical supervisor to trouble shoot any issues, answer questions and provide support and guidance.

In making the decision for your child, and family in regards to attending school the below factors should be considered:

- Is there someone at home who can supervise and care for your child? Do you have a job that means you are required to physically attend work and cannot do so from home?
  - **If you are required to attend work learning from home will be significantly impacted for your child and as such face to face learning is an option.**
- Are you and your family well?
  - Does anyone in your house have cold or flu symptoms?
  - Does anyone in your house have a cough or fever
    - **If you or your child are unwell you should remain at home until a negative COVID test returns and you are symptom free.** Our COVID safe plan outlines a strict sickness policy which will be adhered to during this time.
- Have you or your family visited a hotspot area?
  - Have you been to an area listed on the NSW website as a hotspot?
    - This website shows a map of local government areas with high risk
    - [NSW COVID-19 case locations map | NSW Government](#)
    - Western Sydney including Fairfield, Liverpool and Blacktown are high risk areas with multiple hot spot locations.
  - Are you a close contact of a COVID case or suspected case?
    - **NSW Department of health guidelines should be adhered to**

We please ask that you advise us of your decision to attend Woodbury or engage in at home learning by 4pm tomorrow (Friday 9<sup>th</sup>) I recognise this does not provide much time but it is important we know of your plans so that our teaching team has adequate time to prepare for each student accordingly.

Any questions please ask,  
Stay safe

*Lauren*



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