



# COVID-19 UPDATE



## COVID-19 Member Update - Victorian Independent Schools - 8 April

<< Test Salutation >>

Yesterday, the Victorian government published guidelines on the operation of government schools in Term 2. There are important directions concerning staff and student ratios for any on-site supervision arrangements, safety requirements, minimum literacy and numeracy recommendations for remote learning, and an emphasis that for the majority of students, schooling must take place remotely. Government schools have been advised that staff who can work from home must do so, that meetings should be held remotely, and that any member of staff who is medically vulnerable or lives with a medically vulnerable person must not attend the workplace. [Click here for the current Department of Education advice.](#)

In the non-government sector, Victorian Catholic schools will be following similar protocols. Arrangements in independent schools will vary, but it is **essential** that protocols are put in place which protect workers and minimise the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 through our communities while allowing education to continue. We believe that it is vital that:

- All students that can safely stay home and be schooled remotely should do so.
- All staff that are able to perform work remotely should do so.
- High-risk staff should not attend the workplace.

Today we wrote to all Victorian independent school Principals, seeking clarification of employment arrangements in Term 2 – [see our letter here](#). We will collate and report back on their responses.

This coming term will undoubtedly present new challenges for schools, staff and students – which is why genuine consultation is so essential. Consultation should include the Health and Safety Rep, the IEU Sub-Branch Rep, the IEU Sub-Branch, and the Consultative Committee (if your school has one). There should be a real opportunity for you to provide recommendations and feedback about what is working and what isn't.

Please continue to check for further information and updates on this [dedicated section of our website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

**If you need assistance, advice or support, do not hesitate to contact us: email [info@ieuvictas.org.au](mailto:info@ieuvictas.org.au) or send a text message to 0480 092 251.**

In unity

**Debra James**  
General Secretary