

**Mooroolbark Campus
(Years 7–12)**

16 Reay Road
Mooroolbark Victoria 3138

P. +61 3 9839 8800
F. +61 3 9839 8888

**Mount Evelyn Campus
(Years 7–10)**

15 Burdap Drive
Mount Evelyn Victoria 3796

P. +61 3 9736 3650
F. +61 3 9736 1840



Yarra Hills
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Yarra Hills Secondary College

PO Box 42 Mooroolbark Victoria 3138 **E.** yarra.hills.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au www.yarrahills.vic.edu.au

16 June 2022

RE: Year 10/11 Central Australia Camp COVID Risk Management and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment of Risk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please be informed about the following COVID-19 Safe measures that will be in place during the 2022 Central Australia Camp. A combination of strategies are required to minimise transmission risk. No single strategy completely reduces risk and not every measure will be possible in all educational settings. Families and participants must sign the Acknowledgement of Risk and COVID-19 Recommendations form at the end of this notice and return to the Mooroolbark General Office by Friday 24 June.

The following points below outline the YHSC COVID Safe Plan and these specific COVID Safe measures will be in place for this camp:

- Staff attending the camp will prioritise activities to be conducted in outdoor spaces.
- Staff and students will maintain physical distancing and non-contact greetings in those settings where possible.
- Meals will be consumed in outdoor settings.
- Bus travel with accurate records along with drivers, staff and students will be recorded.
- Hand sanitiser and soap will be available along with education and reminders from staff. Good hand hygiene (around meals, toilet, cough and sneeze) will be monitored.
- Students will keep the same tent partner for the duration of the trip.
- There will be no sharing of food.
- The college will provide N-95 masks for high risk settings each day, including bus travel. Mask use is required on all bus journeys on this camp to minimise the risk of transmission in this high risk setting.
- The college will provide Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for students who present with symptoms, or if needed to test close contacts.
- The college will provide insurance in the event that participants test positive to COVID-19 prior to and during the duration of the camp.



Recommendations and Testing Prior to Camp:

Yarra Hills Secondary College strongly recommends a range of strategies to students and families to minimise the risk of becoming ill or being exposed to illness prior to the departure of the 2022 Central Australia Camp. Recommendations include:

- Vaccinating and/or being boosted against Influenza and COVID-19. COVID-19 booster vaccinations are available for individuals aged 16 and above.
- Minimising or not attending social events and where exposure and transmission risk is high

Families and students are asked to conduct a Rapid Antigen test 7 days and 4 days prior to leaving for camp on July 8th, as well as on the morning of departure. In the event of a positive result, families must notify the college as soon as possible via the Email provided.

Families and participants should be aware that not only does COVID-19 present a significant risk, but transmission of Influenza has also risen in 2022. Six nights of this camp occur outdoors (tents), and outdoor camping will be uncomfortable for participants exhibiting symptoms of illnesses such as the common cold, Influenza and COVID-19. The college also has a duty of care to all participants and reserves its capacity to decide who participates in this camp. Thus, families should not take undue risks when it comes to participating in camp, particularly if exhibiting symptoms prior to departure even if Rapid Antigen Tests display a negative result.

Where possible, we can endeavour to replace your child's position on the camp with someone on the waiting list, avoiding forfeiture of fees, and likewise, the college has purchased insurance which may reimburse forfeiture of fees where the college cannot replace a participant.

Students who are a household (or household-like) contact within 7-days of departure may be permitted to attend camp, however, must adhere to the following rules:

- Families must contact Brenton Millott via Email as soon as possible.
- Individuals must follow Victorian, South Australian and Northern Territory laws in regard to testing. This includes having a Rapid Antigen test within 3 days of becoming a close contact, and on Day 6 of becoming a close contact.
- For 7 days wear a mask when indoors
- For 7 days, wear a mask when outdoors when maintaining a distance of 1.5 metres from other people is not a possibility
- Under no circumstances will group members be allowed to visit vulnerable communities (including the Lilla Community at Watarrka).

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Positive Cases & Close Contacts:

Given the nature of this camp, elimination of all COVID-19 risks is quite challenging. Participants who present with symptoms will be tested at locations and appropriate times where isolation and suitable accommodation is possible, such as Adelaide, Alice Springs and Yulara.

Where a positive case is identified:

- A participant must isolate. The college principal, DET representatives, insurance (VMIA) and families will be immediately contacted by camp staff.
- Positive cases results will be registered with the NT Government
- Families must be aware that isolation must occur in-situ. If a student is a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, a parent/carer will need to come to the NT to isolate with the child for the required 7 days.
- In the event where a family member is required to isolate with their child, insurance is provided to support travel and isolation. This does not cover lost wages as a result of not working to support isolation.

In the event where participants present with severe symptoms, the college will follow planned procedures in the event of severe illness. This could include taking a student to hospital, or contacting emergency services for Ambulance and/or Royal Flying Doctor support. When travelling interstate, Ambulance Victoria members receive the same benefits as they would have received if they had been in Victoria. YHSC strongly recommends that participants have Ambulance Victoria or Private Health insurance. The college also has access to a satellite phone where normal phone reception may not be available in the event of severe illness.

Please be informed that if a confirmed or probable case is present at the camp while infectious, others attending the camp may be identified as household-like contacts and be required to follow normal household-like requirements, including wearing a mask in all settings, and daily testing for 7 days. More information can be accessed at <https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au>

Other restrictions for close contacts include those noted in the 'Recommendations and Testing Prior to Camp' section. Camp staff will monitor close contacts by

- Keeping record of accommodation arrangements (such as tent partners).
- Keeping record of seating arrangements on buses. Students must maintain the same seating arrangements each day.

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Should a large outbreak occur during the camp where a significant number of camp participants test positive, or in the event where the college cannot maintain legal requirements (in regard to staff to student ratios), the college may be required to cancel or change components of the camp, and may return earlier than planned.

Positive Cases After Camp

Should a camp participant test positive to COVID-19 within 48 hours of returning from camp, families must notify Brenton Millott immediately after confirmation of a positive result. Given the nature of the return bus journey, this may mean a large number of participants may be considered as close contacts. The school will liaise with DET and the Department of Health in identifying close contacts, and those notified as close contacts should follow household and household like contact requirements.

Changes in the lead up to Camp.

Please also be aware that, if at any time during the lead up to camp the situation changes and multiple students or staff test positive for COVID 19, compromising the ability of the school to staff the camp adequately, Yarra Hills Secondary College still reserves the right to cancel this camp and attempt to reorganise this camp for a future date.

If you have any questions in relation to the information above please feel free to contact me via email for further clarification Brenton.Millott@education.vic.gov.au

Brenton Millott
2022 Central Camp Teacher in Charge

Darren Trippett
College Principal



Central Australia Camp Risk Management and Acknowledgement of Risk Form

The school will use this information to proactively manage COVID-19 risks, or if your child is involved in a positive case of COVID-19. All information is held in confidence. This medical form must be current when the excursion/program is run.

Student's full name:

Parent/Guardian's full name:

I/We have read the college Risk Management and Acknowledgement of Risk guidelines and recommendations. Yes No

I/We acknowledge college recommended prevention strategies, including vaccinations, pre-testing and limited exposure risk prior to camp departure. Yes No

I/We acknowledge that in the event of a positive test result prior to departure, I/we will notify the college as soon as possible. Yes No

I/We acknowledge that all household and household like contact legal requirements for each state will be followed. Yes No

I/We acknowledge that in the event of a positive test result prior to departure, I/we will notify the college as soon as possible Yes No

I/We acknowledge that in the event of a positive test result during the camp, a student will be required to isolate immediately, and a family member will be required to fly, or be transported to, the isolation location to isolate with the positive case. Yes No

I/We acknowledge that in the event of a severe positive case, the college will use support services such as those provided by hospitals, St John Ambulance (NT) or Royal Flying Doctor Services. Ambulance membership and/or Private Health cover is strongly recommended. Yes No

I/We acknowledge that the college may need to change, amend or cancel planned events at short notice. Yes No

Signature of student (named above): _____

Signature of parent/guardian (named above): _____

Date: _____