Junior Science Academy and COVID-19

Macquarie University is committed to the welfare of children in its care.

The Junior Science Academy will be operational in the upcoming September school holidays, with classes available each day.

The information below addresses concerns and questions you may have regarding Junior Science Academy and COVID-19.

Health and Hygiene

Children who are unwell, including those with fever (37.5°C or higher), loss of taste, loss of smell, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, or other symptoms of respiratory infection, should not attend Junior Science Academy. Staff will ask parents to immediately collect children who appear unwell while attending Junior Science Academy.

NSW Health encourages people who live in, or have visited any of the areas for increased testing, in the last two weeks to get tested, even if they have the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms.

If you have visited a venue with a confirmed COVID-19 case, you may need to take further action. See the list of locations where visitors are advised to self-isolate and get tested immediately or monitor for symptoms.

Children should not attend Junior Science Academy if:

- They, or their immediate family, have been to a location identified by NSW Health and are required to self-isolate
- They have had a COVID-19 test and are awaiting the results
- They, or their immediate family, have tested positive for COVID-19 and are required to self-isolate
- They are a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days

Please inform staff immediately if you or your child tests positive for COVID-19.

The best way to avoid getting sick with COVID-19 (or any other virus) is to ensure that you practise good personal hygiene. NSW Health recommends:

- Clean your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based hand rub (the JSA will provide regular opportunities and washing facilities throughout each day).
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or a flexed elbow
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Practice cough etiquette (keep away from other people, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and clean your hands.
- Maintain a physical distance of 1.5 meters from others as much as possible and wear a mask if this is not possible.

We will be helping children to understand how to wash their hands thoroughly. You will see a handwashing station set up where you can use a cream on your hands that mimics germs. You then wash your hands and view them under a UV light to see if you have washed all the ‘germs’ off! The aim is to show how thoroughly we need to wash our hands to remove germs.

We will also be speaking to children at the start of each class to discuss hygiene measures and we will re-enforce these messages throughout the day. Staff may choose to wear a mask and will practice physical distancing where possible.
Refunds/ cancelling classes

Should the University need to cancel Junior Science Academy classes for children in the upcoming school holidays, a full refund will be provided.

Should parents or carers need to cancel a Junior Science Academy class due to illness, you can choose between either receiving a refund based on our refund policy or receiving another class at no charge which may be booked during any school holiday period in 2020.

General information

Please refer to the NSW Health website for more information about COVID-19 and the Macquarie University COVID-19 web page for more information specific to the University.

The University remains open and operating as usual, albeit with heightened awareness for the need for precautionary hygiene measures.

We will continue to monitor the advice from both the Federal Government and NSW Health and will provide updates as necessary.

28 August 2020