

28/01/2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

SA Health and the Department for Education has provided guidance on how to manage cases of COVID-19 in schools.

There will be new contact tracing and close contact arrangements from 31 January 2022.

The new arrangements recognise the importance of providing quality education and care for our students while minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Schools will remain open if there is a case of COVID-19 under the new arrangements.

It's essential that you **notify the school immediately if your child tests positive to COVID-19.**

If a student or teacher in any of your child's classes tests positive for COVID-19, they will be considered a **classroom contact** and the following will occur:

- We will notify all parents of children in the affected classes of the positive case
- All students and children without symptoms can continue attending school. No rapid antigen testing will be required.
- If your child develops any symptoms (even mild) please keep them home from school and get a COVID-19 test.

In the unlikely event of a student working 1:1 with a staff member who tests COVID positive (more than 15mins, indoors, in close proximity and where face masks are not able to be worn) the student will be asked to complete 7 days of rapid antigen testing ('test to stay') each morning before attending school. We will provide you with the testing kits at no charge. Students who test positive must not attend school.

If you do not want your child to undertake the 7-day testing, they will need to quarantine at home for 7 days. The Department for Education is developing online learning resources for students in reception to year 10 that can be completed during quarantine.

The Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) has recommended **that classroom contacts should avoid** the following between days 1 to 7 of exposure:

- attendance at OSHC where possible
- attending extra-curricular-based activities for 7 days (such as camps, excursions, interschool sport, combined choir etc – noting most of these activities have been temporarily suspended until week 4).

The CPHO advises **classroom contacts** should do the following to minimise risk to others, when outside of the school between days 1 to 14 of exposure:

- avoid high risk settings or COVID Management Plan events
- wear a surgical mask around others (where age appropriate) and outside your home



- avoid contact with vulnerable people outside of your workplace or family, where possible
- avoid non-essential activities where possible (eg where there are lots of people, inside, in close contact)
- avoid shared spaces and maintain physical distance.

Our staff will also undergo 7 days of rapid antigen testing (test to stay) in the event that they are in a classroom with a student or colleague who tests positive.

It's vitally important that you:

- keep your child/ren home if they are:
 - unwell
 - experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms
 - any other member of the household has tested positive for COVID-19
 - they are a close contact for a person who has COVID-19 and are required to quarantine
- notify us asap if your child/ren tests positive for COVID-19
- **let your child know that face masks are required to be worn by all students in Years 7-12 when indoors at school.** We will have supplies for them to wear if they don't already have one.

These new settings will be in place until the end of week 4 of term 1. However, with the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic, this may be reviewed or changed if and when needed. As always, we must remain flexible and responsive.

I understand you may have a lot of questions about this information. We'll continue to provide you information as soon as we have it.

Thank you for your understanding and support in implementing these temporary measures as we continue to adjust to this rapidly changing pandemic.

Kind regards



Penny Tranter
Principal

