



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

Dear Parents / Carers

There continues to members of our school community who have recently tested positive to COVID-19. There are also household contact cases across the school who undertake RATs every morning for five (5) days before attending school.

It is highly recommended for students K-6 who are household contacts but testing negative **that they wear a mask when indoors when at school**, except when eating or exercising. Our teachers will ensure classrooms have windows open a little (due to cold weather) and fans on for cross ventilation.

While testing and isolation is no longer mandatory for exposures in school settings, [NSW Health has provided advice on testing and isolation recommendations](#)[External link](#) for the community following exposure to COVID-19 that should be considered when making decisions for your child and family.

You are reminded that staff and students cannot attend school if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19. These include fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, extreme tiredness, unexplained chest pain or conjunctivitis (eye infection).

If symptoms occur at any time, you cannot attend school and must undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT). If a RAT is positive your child must isolate for 7 days from the original positive test date: [someone who has tested positive to COVID-19](#)[External link](#). **You must register the positive result with Service NSW/Health which can be done via the Service NSW app.** If you cannot access a RAT, you can attend a PCR (nose and throat swab) testing clinic.

It is recommended that students and staff that return to school after recovering from COVID-19 **do not participate in rapid antigen testing for 4 weeks following release from self-isolation** unless they develop new COVID-19 symptoms. This is due to NSW Health advice that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 4 weeks.

Close contacts attending school

Students and staff who are identified as close contacts and have no symptoms can attend school (excluding schools for specific purposes (SSPs) and support units) if they follow certain guidelines agreed with [NSW Health](#)[External link](#) in addition to the [NSW Health guidelines](#)[External link](#):

- They must notify the school (including their outside of school hours care provider) if they are intending to return under this provision.
- **They should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days.**
- No student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.

Masks

Masks continue to be mandatory on public transport. This applies to students aged 12 years and older and staff when travelling to and from school and during any school excursions.

Please refer to the NSW Government fact sheets for information on safely managing COVID-19:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/management>

Specific activities

Guidelines have been provided to schools on how to assess activities with a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 and apply appropriate safeguards.

Parents and carers will be made aware of those risks and will need to give their permission for participation in extra-curricular, out-of-school hours or off-site activities.

Unwell at school

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 **will be asked to go home and stay there until they can complete a RAT or PCR test, receive a negative result and are symptom free.**

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative, the student or staff member can return to school.
- In NSW, positive COVID-19 cases are provided a Medical Clearance Notice after 7 days and allowed to leave self-isolation as long as they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

On behalf of the N.P.S. staff, I want to thank you and acknowledge your ongoing support and understanding as we continue to follow the most current COVID-safe procedures in Term 3.

With kind regards ... Mrs Anne Ezzy | Principal

23 August 2022