



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR FAMILIES | TERM 3 GUIDELINES

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back for Term 3. I have been advised that there continues to members of our school community who have recently tested positive to COVID-19. There are also staff and student household contact cases across K-6 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.

The current positive cases have occurred during the holidays last week and today. I have been advised by NOOSH that they were advised of cases during the holidays as well.

While testing and isolation is no longer mandatory for exposures in school settings, [NSW Health has provided advice on testing and isolation recommendationsExternal 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-19External 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.

Term 3 COVID-smart measures at school updated by Department of Education 18 July:

Guidance for specific activities – Term 3

Schools will work with their Director, Educational Leadership (DEL) and the department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing Case Management team to discuss any concerns they may have about planning specific activities.

In some cases, it may be appropriate to cancel or postpone activities, such as school camps. **The school is currently seeking advice about planned events including the overnight camps planned for Stage 3 and Stage 2 as well as Education Week Open Day and Parent/Teacher conferencing. These conferences with teachers may change to virtual meetings only via ZOOM or phone calls as opposed to on site face to face meetings.** We will advise our families in the next week or so on any changes or postponements to these scheduled events.

All schools are encouraged to use the department's COVID-safe advice, the other resources available to them, and their judgment **to make decisions that are in the best interests of the health and safety of their school community.**

Outside of school hours, off-site or non-curriculum activities require additional parental consent and stronger COVID-19-smart risk mitigation protections.

Note: In certain circumstances, and as advised by the department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing team, some schools may be directed to temporarily introduce additional COVID-19 temporary measures which may include postponing non-essential activities. This includes, but is not limited to, school camps and excursions to minimise transmission risks within the school setting. Principals will communicate this update to schools if and when applicable.

Masks

In response to NSW Health advice and the current COVID-19 situation in the state, the Minister for Education and Early Learning **has strongly encouraged mask-wearing when indoors for all school-based staff and for all students, particularly for the first 4 weeks of Term 3.**

Masks are an effective way to reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory viruses and infectious diseases, including COVID-19 and the flu. **A 4-week mask-wearing 'blitz' will help to reduce the risk of transmission events in our schools** and keep our schools operational to support our students' learning.

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>

Rapid antigen testing

As part of the NSW Government's focus on minimising disruptions to teaching and learning, the department will continue to support the use of rapid antigen tests (RATs) in schools throughout Term 3. RATs will be sent to schools from Week 1 of Term 3. The delivery is expected to be completed within the first three weeks of term. This supply will contain 1 multipack of 5 RAT kits for every student and staff member in schools. We will distribute these by sending the packs home with students once they have been delivered to the school.

Visitors on school sites

Visitors, including volunteers who are close contacts **should advise the school office prior to coming on site if they are interacting with students/staff and conduct a daily RAT in the morning before attending the school and return a negative result. They must also wear a mask indoors at all times** (except when eating or exercising).

Staff, students, parents and visitors who are close/household contacts attending school will need to adhere to the following in addition to the [NSW Health guidelines](#):

- 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 rapid antigen test (RAT) and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days.

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- Staff must wear a mask indoors except when eating or exercising. Primary school students are recommended to wear a mask indoors (except when eating or exercising).
- **No student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.**
- Any visitor to a school site who is a close contact is required to advise the school that they are a close contact before they come on site. These visitors should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result before attending. They must also wear a mask indoors at all times. Schools should consider if the visit can be conducted virtually.

Please refer to the [Close contacts section of the Advice for families page](#) and [NSW Health guidelines](#).

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 vaccinations, 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 navigate this journey and adhere to updated COVID-safe procedures for Term 3.

***With kind regards ... Mrs Anne Ezzy* | Principal**
18 July 2022