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Principal: Ms Meaghan Wilson

Dear Parents & Carers,

In Term 3 2022, we are operating with a number of COVID-smart measures that have been developed with NSW Health to minimise transmission and keep our school open.

These key measures include:

- strongly encouraging mask-wearing indoors for all students and staff
- rapid antigen testing (RAT) of students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms or are identified as close contacts
- strongly recommending staff and students keep [up-to-date](#) with their vaccinations
- maximising natural ventilation in classrooms
- requiring mask wearing for staff and students protecting students and staff who are at greater risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19
- issuing students with RAT kits
- encouraging regular hand washing
- sanitising on the way in and out of classrooms
- sanitising desks on arrival and departure in classrooms
- boosting enhanced day cleaning of our school
- assessing risk and minimising activities
- maintaining 1.5 metres wherever possible
- avoiding mixing cohorts where possible
- limiting excursions this term and off school site visits where possible (although grade sport will continue with the appropriate measures in place)
- overnight camps or excursions this term, will be dependent on medical advice.
- requesting all visitors to the school wear masks on entering our school

### 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](#) guidelines

- You must notify the school if they are intending to return under this provision.
- Students should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days.
- They must wear a mask indoors except when eating or exercising.

Any visitor to our 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**. Where possible visits can be conducted virtually.

Students and staff at greater risk of serious illness, if they were to contract COVID-19, should speak with their treating medical practitioner or specialist, to review their health support plan or COVID-19 action plan and speak with us so we can ensure the appropriate measures are taken.

Note that staff and students who have had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 4 weeks do not have to comply with the following guidelines if they become a household or close contact and are not required to self-isolate or test unless they develop new COVID-19 symptoms.

## Testing

**Remember: Staff and students cannot attend school if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms occur at any time, your child should not attend school and should undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT).**

All students and staff will receive additional RAT kits in early Term 3 [*we have not received our supply as yet*]. These RAT kits can be used for symptomatic testing or for daily testing as part of the close contact requirements.

- If a student is unwell and has any Covid 19 symptoms, even the mildest of symptoms, they should always test for COVID-19.
- If the test comes back negative for COVID-19, the student should still not return to school until either:
- The student no longer has any symptoms, or
- A medical certificate is provided to the school confirming that symptoms are explained by another diagnosis (such as hay fever)
- It is important that students do not attend school if they are unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19. Rapid antigen tests can produce false negative results and symptoms of other illnesses can also be similar to COVID-19, including flu, the common cold and stomach bugs. Health advice is that students who are sick should always stay home to rest and recover and avoid putting other students and staff at risk of getting sick.

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.

## For positive COVID-19 cases

If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT test, they need to:

- record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website External link](#) or [Service NSW app](#) – please add details of your child's school
- notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible
- follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days.

Registering your child's positive RAT with Service NSW is a requirement of the Public Health Order and helps NSW Health track COVID-19 in schools and address any public health issues early on if required.

Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

We will inform our community when there is a positive case in the school and guide families on NSW Health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

## Visitors on school grounds

All visitors are strongly encouraged to wear a mask, particularly in indoor settings or when distancing is not possible, and when interacting directly with students.

Visitors must also comply with the close contacts in school procedures outlined above.

## Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and reduces the risk of spreading it to others. We strongly recommend all eligible students (and their families) who are 5 years and older get vaccinated against COVID-19, including booster vaccinations as they become available to different groups.

## **Masks**

Masks are an effective way of minimising the transmission of respiratory diseases.

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 indoors for all school-based staff and for all students, particularly during the first 4 weeks of Term 3.

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.

In line with the [latest advice from NSW Health](#) masks are recommended for students and staff who have recovered from COVID-19, completed their 7-day isolation period and are no longer showing symptoms for an additional 3 days (from days 8 – 10 after receiving a positive COVID-19 result).

Additionally, mask wearing when indoors is mandatory for staff and high school students returning to school as close contacts for 5 school days

## **Ventilation**

Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Where there is no natural ventilation, schools will use mechanical ventilation to maximise fresh airflow in learning spaces. Using outdoor spaces will continue to be encouraged.

During the colder months, heating is being used in conjunction with windows and doors remaining slightly open to continue to allow natural ventilation.