

18 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your child/children have settled into our final term of 2022. I want to provide you with an update on our COVID-smart settings, particularly with the latest change to isolation requirements. Please review the following information and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have further questions.

On 30 September, National Cabinet announced that from Friday, 14 October 2022, people who test positive to COVID-19 do not need to isolate. In line with this announcement, the NSW Department of Education have worked with NSW Health to support all schools to adapt to this change while continuing to prioritise student and staff wellbeing by minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmissions.

Students and staff should continue to stay home when sick

From Friday 14 October, those currently in isolation will be advised by NSW Health that they may exit isolation. Students, staff and visitors **should only attend school when they are symptom free**. We strongly encourage all students, staff and visitors to follow the guidance issued by NSW Health. We will continue to send home students or staff displaying symptoms.

Anyone who believes they have been exposed to COVID-19 is strongly recommended to monitor for symptoms and test if they have any concerns, as well as wear a mask. We will continue to support our families to use rapid antigen tests (RATs) if symptomatic or if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19. RAT testing may help identify the infection early and is important if you are in contact with people at greater risk of serious illness if exposed to COVID-19.

We are continuing our COVID-smart measures

Our school will continue to operate with our baseline COVID-smart measures in place throughout Term 4 to minimise transmission and keep our school open. This includes a combination of layered safety measures.

Masks continue to be required at all times in our support classes for staff directly interacting with students at greater risk of serious illness and for Assisted Travel Support Officers (ATSOs) and Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) drivers. Schools should be particularly conscious of managing the risks to vulnerable students.

Reporting requirements from 14 October

Please continue to notify the school if your child tests positive to COVID-19 as we will continue to notify the school community of any known positive cases to prioritise student and staff safety and wellbeing.

Non-COVID-19 Vaccinations reminder from NSW Health

Due to the ongoing pandemic and stay-at-home orders that were in place over the previous two years, NSW Health have noted that some children and young people have missed out on the non-COVID school-based vaccination programs that they would have taken part in. The department would like to remind parents and carers to make sure that all of their child's vaccinations are up to date, including other non-COVID vaccinations.

On behalf of our school, I want to thank you again for your ongoing support in helping to keep our students, staff and community safe. I'd like to wish all our students and their families a great start to Term 4.

Regards

Ewen Neild
Principal