



**1 April 2022**

Dear parents and caregivers,

A big thank you for your continued efforts in supporting our schools and students during Term 1, where once again the pandemic has caused significant disruption.

During the week, the Minister for Health updated the Public Health Order. Please see below updated information.

**Self isolation requirements**

- When a student or staff member who has recovered from COVID-19 comes into contact with someone with COVID-19 within 12 weeks after they are released, they will generally not need to self-isolate or get a test. They can continue to go to school or work unless they have new COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person in your household tests positive to COVID-19, they must self-isolate away from everyone else in the house for 7 days from the date of their positive test. They must follow the [advice for people testing positive to COVID-19](#) which includes how to self-isolate effectively. If the person is unable to safely self-isolate by themselves (e.g. due to their young age), a parent or carer should self-isolate with them.
- The entire household must also self-isolate for 7 days from the date of the positive person's test. They should follow the [advice for people exposed to COVID-19](#), [take a test](#) as soon as possible, have another test on Day 6, and at any time COVID-19 symptoms appear.
- If another person in your household tests positive to COVID-19, that person must restart their 7-day self-isolation period from the date of their positive test, even if they don't have any symptoms.
- Other household members who test negative, do not need to re-start their 7 day self-isolation period. They also do not have to self-isolate again anytime in the following 14 days unless they test positive.
- Self-isolation means staying at home or at your accommodation. This means you cannot drive your children to school or daycare; you must ask someone else to do this. You must only leave self-isolation to get medical care or in an emergency. For more information, please [read the self-isolation rules](#).

**Staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms**

If a student or staff member is unwell and has any [symptoms](#) they should always test for COVID-19, either with a rapid antigen test (RAT) or PCR (nose and throat swab) test.

If the test comes back negative for COVID-19, the student or staff member 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 staff and students do not attend school if they are unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19. RATs 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.

A reminder that if a student records a positive RAT, they/their family must register the positive test on the Service NSW website or Service NSW app so they can be linked to important health care support and advice. Parents and carers are required to ensure that they select your school name when prompted when registering a positive test result for their child.

### **Operational guidelines**

- All principals must continue to ensure that our core COVID-smart layers are in place, including vaccinations; maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces; continued good hand hygiene practices; and enhanced cleaning.
- Whole school indoor gatherings, such as assemblies will be temporarily put on hold.
- Masks are strongly recommended in indoor settings for all staff and secondary school students from 4 April 2022 to 8 April 2022. Additional masks and RATs have been ordered from Catholic Schools NSW. Further information regarding the distribution of these items will be forwarded to you when available.
- For the period of 4 April 2022 to 8 April 2022, school visits by CSO staff have been restricted.

The health and safety of our school communities continues to be our number one priority. We are continuing to monitor the current COVID situation and make decisions to ensure that the health and safety of our staff and students is maintained. This may result in a decision to postpone some school activities, including excursions and camps. In the event that a school activity is postponed, this will be communicated to you by your school principal. We ask for your understanding that these decisions are not made lightly, and we appreciate the significant disruption that the pandemic has caused for these students over the past two years.

I would like to sincerely thank you and acknowledge your ongoing hard work and dedication throughout this term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Smyth', followed by a small dot.

Chris Smyth  
Director of Schools