

27 April 2022

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome back to term 2. During the holidays the NSW Government announced a number of changes to COVID protocols in schools and the community.

The following changes have now been implemented:

Close contacts

The NSW Government has announced that isolation requirements have been eased for close contacts. The full announcement can be accessed [here](#). This change will enable staff and students who are close contacts **and have no symptoms** to continue to attend school **if they comply with the following guidelines** issued by NSW Health.

- Staff and students must notify the school if they are intending to return under this provision.
- For 5 school days in a row, staff and students should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result each morning before attending school.
- In secondary schools staff and students must wear a mask indoors except when eating or exercising. It is recommended that primary school students 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.
- No staff member, apprentice, trainee or student on placement identified as a close contact will be permitted to attend settings identified as high risk by NSW Health. These settings include healthcare, aged care, disability care or correctional facilities.
- 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 attend the 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 whether the visit can be conducted virtually.

Rapid Antigen Tests

When showing [COVID-19 symptoms](#), students and staff should use the RATs supplied to them in the following circumstances.

- Any student or member of staff who develops even the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms should get tested for COVID-19.

- Symptomatic students and staff should use a RAT or get a PCR (throat and nose swab) test and isolate until they receive a negative result.

Refer to the [NSW Government's Rapid antigen tests for COVID-19](#) and [Testing positive to COVID-19 fact sheets](#) for guidance on what to do if you receive a positive RAT result, or if symptoms persist.

We are anticipating additional RATs to be delivered to schools for distribution to families within the next three weeks.

Operational

Catholic schools will continue to prioritise student and staff wellbeing while keeping schools operational with our layered COVID-smart measures in place throughout term 2. Our layered measures include rapid antigen testing (RAT), vaccinations, ventilation, hygiene and cleaning. In certain circumstances, the Catholic Schools Office may advise that some additional COVID-smart measures will be temporarily reintroduced or enhanced at your school.

If you would like more information regarding the current COVID guidelines, please email covid@arm.catholic.edu.au. If you wish to make a complaint regarding the school's application of guidelines, please email complaints@arm.catholic.edu.au.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Chris Smyth
Director of Schools