CURRENT COVID GUIDELINES AS AT 30/1/23

Vaccination

Staff and students are strongly recommended to ensure they keep up-to-date with all recommended and available COVID-19 vaccinations as vaccinations are the best way to protect individuals, families and school communities from the severe effects of COVID-19 and reduce the spread of the virus.

Vaccination is no longer mandatory for staff or visitors in any Victorian school, including specialist schools.

Rapid Antigen Tests

It is recommended that rapid antigen tests (RATs) are used by students and staff:

· If you have symptoms of COVID-19 infection, no matter how mild

· If you are a household or close contact of someone who has COVID-19

· If you are a social contact of someone who has COVID-19.

The Department of Health recommends that all Victorians should report their positive RAT result to the Department of Health online, or by calling 1800 675 398.

Students (or their parents) should also report a positive result to their school, either through the COVID Test portal or by phone or written notification.

Face Masks

Current advice from the Victorian government is available at Face masks.

Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask should be supported to do so, and schools should continue to make face masks available for staff, students and visitors.

The Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 when leaving home.

Additionally, the Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who has COVID-19 for at least 7 days after a positive test when they need to leave home.

Management of a suspected case at school

A 'suspected' case means a person who displays any COVID-19 symptoms who has not yet tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member, student or visitor who is symptomatic will be recommended to undergo testing for COVID-19. Parents of students who are symptomatic will be asked to collect their child from school and to keep them home until they are no longer symptomatic.

Management of confirmed case at school

1. Parents/carers should complete the Student COVID-19 COVID Test Portal if a <u>student</u> tests positive to COVID-19 (via a PCR or rapid antigen test) and contact the school to notify us.
2. <u>Students</u> who report a positive result are recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and not attend school until their symptoms have resolved. Students who isolate as a result of a positive COVID-19 test should be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning.

3. There is no longer a requirement for the school to notify the community of a positive case related to the school.

Elissa Campbell
Assistant Principal
Elissa.campbell@education.vic.gov.au