

## COVIDSAFE MEASURES FOR SCHOOLS

### Information for parents, guardians and carers

#### WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS

- If your child is unwell, even with mild COVID-19 symptoms, you must keep your child at home until their symptoms resolve and get your child tested with a PCR test (nose and throat swab) or complete a Rapid Antigen Test (**RAT**).
- If symptoms continue, your child should stay home and take another RAT or PCR test in 24 hours. If that test is also negative, your child may return to school if another diagnosis is confirmed (such as an underlying health condition or medication).

#### FACE MASKS

- Wearing a face mask can help protect you and those around you. Face masks stop droplets spreading when you talk, cough, sneeze and laugh, which lowers your chance of spreading or catching COVID-19.
- It is **strongly recommended** that face masks are worn indoors (noting that exceptions to the recommendation apply to circumstances when clear enunciation or visibility of the mouth is essential).
- Everyone aged eight (8) years or over must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school, on public transport, taxis or ride share vehicles, unless a lawful exemption applies. This includes when travelling to and from activities, school camps and excursions on school buses or via public transport.
- All students aged eight (8) years or older who are household or household-like close contacts attending a school will be required to wear a face mask indoors while at the school and while travelling to and from the school, unless an exception applies.
- Parents, guardians or carers who are COVID-19 positive who leave self-isolation to transport their child(ren) to or from school via a private vehicle must wear a face mask at all times and must adhere to other additional safety requirements.

#### VACCINATIONS

- As part of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, all students aged five (5) and over are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Staff and students are strongly encouraged to ensure they keep up-to-date with all recommended and available COVID-19 vaccinations as they are considered the best way to protect individuals, families and school communities from the spread of COVID-19.

## TESTING

- RAT kits will continue to be provided to all staff and students at **no charge**. Schools will inform parents, guardians and carers on how these kits can be collected from the school.
- If a student has symptoms of COVID-19, they should undertake a PCR or RAT and must self-isolate until they receive a negative test result.

## HOUSEHOLD AND HOUSEHOLD-LIKE CONTACTS

- Household and household-like contacts are no longer required to quarantine but are **required** to undertake the following additional safety measures in the seven (7) days that would have been their quarantine period:
  - notify the school if returning during their seven (7)-day period;
  - undertake daily rapid antigen testing five (5) times within the seven (7) days;
  - wear a face mask indoors (if aged eight (8) and above) unless a lawful exemption applies;
  - are not permitted to visit hospitals or care facilities unless an exemption applies.
- Household and household-like contacts are still permitted to participate in school activities, including camps and excursions, as long as they wear a mask when indoors (if aged eight (8) and above or have a valid exception) and complete five (5) rapid antigen tests within the seven (7)-day period that would have been their quarantine period.
- A household or household-like contact attending an off-site activity during this period must notify the school they are attending under these requirements.
- If a student, parent, guardian or carer **cannot comply** with the **additional safety measures** at any time, they must:
  - quarantine immediately for the remainder of their seven (7)-day household contact period
  - get tested on Day one (1) (or as soon as possible) and on Day six (6) of their household contact period
  - not attend school until a negative Day six (6) test result is received.

## COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

- If your child has no symptoms and there is a positive COVID-19 case in their household, class, year level or other grouping, your child can continue to attend school in line with Victorian Department of Health advice.
- Staff and students who receive a positive RAT result must register it on the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form available on the Coronavirus Victoria website <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report> as soon as possible.
- Staff and students who receive a positive RAT or PCR test result must tell their school as soon as possible, and follow Victorian Department of Health advice.

- Students who test positive to COVID-19 must isolate for seven (7) days and not attend school during that period.
- Students who have recovered from COVID-19, are not required to get tested or isolate if they are re-exposed to a positive COVID-19 case within four (4) weeks of ending their isolation period.
- After the four-week exemption period, students must follow the relevant testing and isolation advice depending on the [type of COVID-19 contact](#) they are.
- Schools will regularly communicate to parents, guardians and carers about the presence and impact of COVID-19 in their school community. Parents, guardians and carers should expect to be provided with details of any impacted grade, year level or other grouping.

## VENTILATION

- The Victorian Government has provided air purifiers for all schools.
- Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise the risk of transmission.
- Schools are required to increase fresh air flow into indoor spaces (including shared spaces, staff areas and thoroughfares) whenever possible.
- Using outdoor spaces will continue to be encouraged, where practicable.

## ACTIVITIES

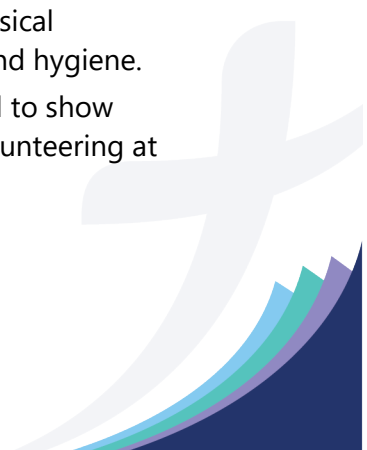
- COVID-19 will continue to be considered in all activity risk assessments. Guidance will be provided to schools on applying appropriate safeguards across a range of activities, including school camps and excursions.
- Parents, guardians and carers will be made aware of the risk of exposure and will need to provide their permission for their child's participation in extra-curricular, out of school hours or off-site activities.

## STUDENT COHORTING

- Schools may consider using cohort arrangements, staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access if required.
- Depending on the school, cohort size and timetables, cohorts may be based on classes, years or stages.

## VISITORS

- Visitors are required to comply with COVIDSafe measures, including physical distancing requirements and practise respiratory etiquette and good hand hygiene.
- Parents, guardians, carers and other adult visitors are no longer required to show evidence of a COVID-19 vaccine, including when performing work or volunteering at the school.



## **KEEPING SCHOOLS OPEN**

- Parents, guardians and carers are asked to respect the rules at their child's school to help keep the community safe.
- Schools will do everything they can to maintain continuity of face-to-face learning including the increased use of casual staff.
- Schools will continue to make localised staffing decisions to ensure appropriate supervision can be maintained.
- Schools will not be able to guarantee particular staff for any cohort and students may not have their regular teacher for a class.

## **LEARNING FROM HOME**

- We will continue to monitor the situation and where face-to-face learning is not possible, learning from home options will be supported for short periods.
- Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be provided with learning materials to support their continued learning. Schools are not expected to provide a full remote learning program in these circumstances.