



Changes to COVID Guidelines – Effective from Monday 28 February

Dear parents and carers

A big thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our school and students during the pandemic – especially prioritising safety and learning.

The Premier and Minister for Education have announced changes to school settings for the remainder of Term 1. These updated settings were developed in close consultation with NSW Health and key stakeholders to ensure we continue to keep our schools open for learning, while keeping up with changing community settings.

The updated settings include:

- We will continue the use of rapid antigen tests (RATs) for twice-weekly testing of students and staff until Friday 25 February.
- From Monday 28 February, we will move to symptomatic testing. Tests are to be used at your discretion such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their cohort. Our school will provide each student and staff member with 8 more tests.
- Beyond that, students and staff can access PCR tests or buy their own rapid antigen tests as these are now readily available and accessible in the community.
- Masks will continue to be required indoors for all school staff, volunteers and visitors including parents and carers in primary schools until Friday 4 March. This means that from Monday 7 March, masks will no longer be mandatory for all staff. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so.
- In line with community settings, workers who support our students with disability in SSPs, support units and some mainstream classrooms will be required to wear masks while working with students.

Visitors

- From Monday 28 February, visitors can be allowed back on school sites regardless of their vaccination status.
- Our school will consider activities such as assemblies, parent-teacher meetings and other gatherings in the coming days. We will let you know if these can proceed with our school in a COVID-smart way.
- All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process.
- We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination including boosters when eligible.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including vaccinations, maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

Cohorting no longer required

As of Monday 28 February, students will no longer be required to be kept in year groups or other cohorts and we will no longer be required to use staggered start or finish times. As a result:

- All students will finish at 2:50pm
- Students may exit from any gate. If you are picking your child up from school, please communicate which gate you want your child to exit from to your child.
- In the morning, please drop your child off at the gate after 8:35am and before 9:05am. Only parents with pre-arranged appointments should enter the school grounds during this time.
- Of an afternoon for pickup, gates will be unlocked from 2:40pm.
- Kindergarten parents, please wait out the front of your child's class.
- All other parents, if you are entering the school grounds to pick up your child, please wait under the pergola and direct your child to meet you there.
- Parents of students in years 1-6 should not wait out the front of classrooms.

Canteen

Our canteen will be fully operational from Monday 28 February. Students will be able to purchase food from the canteen at break times over the counter.

We will continue to use the core layered COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

Kind regards

Nathan Forbes
Principal