



St Joseph's School, Northam

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Update to Official Guidelines - Emailed to Parents on April 30, 2022

Good afternoon

I hope you are enjoying the sunshine this weekend.

Late on Friday afternoon we were issued with the official guidelines from Catholic Education and I have put them together into a question and answer format in the hope that it helps to answer your questions. This is a lengthy email in an attempt to cover all bases.

Will the school notify parents of positive cases in the classes?

- No. The school is no longer being asked to contact trace and parents will not be informed of positive cases within the school.
- Parents are still asked to notify the school if their child tests positive so that we are able to monitor those who should be at home.

What is the definition of a Close contact?

A close contact is now defined as:

- A household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with the positive person during their infectious period.
- Someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period where:
 - they spent greater than 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in any 24-hour period in a residential setting (for instance a home or accommodation facility).
 - where masks have been removed by both people during the period of contact.
- Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Can asymptomatic close contact students return to school?

- Yes. Students who are not positive themselves, but who live in the same house as someone who is, can/should come to school so long as they are displaying no symptoms.
- Parents must inform the school of the child's close contact status and should do so via the [CEWA COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal](#).
- Students who return to school must follow the requirements set out by the WA Government
 - mask wearing is compulsory for Year 7 and above only
 - Daily RAT test (for the 7 days that they would have been in isolation) - all age groups
- School attendance is compulsory and students should return to normal classes unless symptomatic or a positive COVID-19 result is returned.

Do students and staff who are close contacts need to take a RAT each day prior to coming to school?

- Yes. Students and staff who are asymptomatic close contacts must take a RAT each day before coming to school.
- Where a student or staff member becomes symptomatic or returns a positive result, they must stay at home and commence isolation protocols.

When do we need to provide work for students who are not at school?

- Schools need to provide work for students who are required to stay at home due to isolation requirements. Schools are not required to provide work to students who are being kept at home by parents/carers.

Where a household close contact is in primary school are they required to wear a mask?

- No. Any child under the age of 12 is not required to wear a face mask.

Where are masks now required?

- Asymptomatic close contacts (in Year 7 or above 12 years of age) are required to wear a mask outside of the home at all times for 7 days or while there are positive cases in the household.

- The mask mandate no longer applies to staff and students in schools, however, students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask should they wish.
- Masks are required on public transport, including school owned vehicles, so masks will be provided for students using our school bus to travel around town and on excursions.
- Students, aged 12 and above, who travel to and from school on the school bus services, should be wearing a mask. Parents must provide these.

Do students need to wear a mask for 7 days after having a positive COVID test?

- No, there is no requirement for a person to wear a mask once they meet the criteria to leave isolation unless the individual is aged above 12 years of age and is attending a high risk setting or catching public transport

What school activities can resume?

The following activities may take place without restriction:

- Band, choir and orchestra rehearsals and performances
- Whole school and year level assemblies
- Sporting programs
- Inter-school activities and workshops
- School balls

Excursion and offsite events can resume in accordance with venue-based requirements.

Proof of vaccination for venue entry has been removed, excluding high risk settings.

Can parents/caregivers return to classroom-based activities?

Parents and caregivers are permitted on school sites and in classrooms in order to:

- Support school services (canteen/ uniform shop).
- Attend both year level and whole school assemblies and special infrequent school events.
- Drop off/pick up.
- Morning reading/activities or to volunteer in classroom activities.
- Attend parent teacher conferences.

Will school camps resume?

School camps are permitted from Term 2 and those which were postponed will be rescheduled, however, the following must now be incorporated into our procedures and permission slips:

- Staff/students are required to show evidence (photo) of a negative RAT taken on the morning of the camp for their attendance to be permitted.
- Staff/students who have recently recovered from COVID-19 (within 12 weeks of the camp) are not required to undertake RAT testing.
- Student permission notices for camps must now include:
- Permission for staff to administer a RAT to any student who has symptoms or meets the close contact definition.
- Agreement of parent/caregiver to immediately collect their child from camp should they test positive or be identified as a close contact.
- Agreement of parent/caregiver to be contactable at any time and available to take immediate responsibility for the child in the event that they cannot remain/ return to the camp facility.
- Agreement that asymptomatic students identified as close contacts while on camp self-administer a daily RAT and wear a mask.

Hopefully this has helped to answer some of your questions. We will now begin the task of putting our calendar back together so that activities can resume and we look forward to seeing the smiles and other facial expressions of those around us.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions andrea.woodgate@cewa.edu.au

Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

Andrea Woodgate
Principal