

25 February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in navigating the first four weeks of the 2022 school year. Next week marks Week 5 of Term 1, and there will be some changes taking place in school settings.

The Education Minister, on the advice of the Chief Public Health Officer, has now confirmed that a number of school activities that have been on hold this year, may resume from next week with a further easing of activity restrictions expected to be announced for Week 9 of the Term.

From Monday 28 February 2022 we look forward to the following:

- Interschool sporting competitions.
- Extra-curricular activities including but not limited to choir, band practice and instrumental lessons.
- Day excursions and incursions. *Note that some excursion venues may have vaccination requirements.*
- Work experience and work placements.
- Outdoor assemblies and masses.

Unfortunately, school camps (except those required as part of the curriculum for SACE subjects) remain on hold for Weeks 5-8 inclusive. We are working with our venues to reschedule all camps for Year 4, 5, 6 students and the Year 12 Retreat, and we will inform families of new arrangements as they are made.

From next week, parents and visitors may attend the school for specific outdoor events, such as weekend sport, and for drop-off and collection in the various courtyards.

Where it is essential for volunteers, parents or visitors attend the school site, they should continue to check in using our COVID-SAfe QR code and to wear a mask while indoors.

Drop-off and Collection Weeks 5 – 8

Primary Students:

- All parents and caregivers may enter the Dunlevie Courtyard for drop-off and collection, but are asked to do so without congregating and with social distancing as much as possible.
- Reception and Year 1 parents and caregivers will continue to collect the students from the Dunlevie Courtyard between 3:05-3:15pm to reduce congestion.
- We still ask that parents and caregivers do not enter classrooms at this stage.

Secondary Students:

• All entrances to the College will be available to secondary students, and we ask that parents and caregivers do not enter the school grounds if possible.

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A number of COVID controls will remain unchanged as follows:

- Face masks continue to be required when indoors for all staff, adult visitors and secondary students and encouraged for Year 3-6 students.
- The current <u>testing, isolating and quarantining approach</u> remains unchanged including management of and notification of classroom close contacts.
- Natural ventilation will continue to be maximised.
- No events involving parents or visitors may be held indoors (except school tours for prospective families).

The most important ongoing control against COVID-19 impacting our school community is for students, staff and visitors to stay home if they are unwell.

If your child displays even mild symptoms associated with COVID-19, please arrange for a PCR test and follow SA Health directions. If your child is confirmed as COVID-19 positive, please contact the school immediately. If we are notified that a person who attended school subsequently learns they are COVID-19 positive, we will communicate this with classroom contacts in line with the approach approved by SA Health.

If your child is absent from school due to COVID-19, the school will, as is usual, make best endeavours to support their learning continuity.

Our school and all Catholic Education SA schools and services will continue to follow the advice of SA Health in order to minimise the potential for entry into and transmission of COVID-19 in our school environment.

Thank you for your understanding as we apply necessary COVID-19 controls to keep our community safe.

Should you have any queries in relation to this correspondence, please contact Nick Tattoli on ntettoli@sac.sa.edu.au or 8217 3200.

Yours sincerely,

P. M'Every

Paddy McEvoy PRINCIPAL





INFORMATION SHEET: CLASSROOM CONTACTS VS CLOSE CONTACTS

The information and procedures for students regarding exposure to confirmed cases at school *is different* to exposure to confirmed cases outside of school.

Please note that testing and isolation for school settings differs to SA Health's general close contact rules:

- If a student is in contact with a COVID-19 positive case at school, they are considered a **CLASSROOM CONTACT**.
- If any exposure occurs outside of school, SA Health's **CLOSE CONTACT** rules apply.

The obvious difference between the two contact rules is that students who are a classroom contact may continue to attend school (provided they are asymptomatic), whereas if they are deemed a close contact they must isolate for 7 or 14 days.

Further details can be found in this table:

CLASSROOM CONTACT (exposure at school)

STUDENTS ARE A 'CLASSROOM CONTACT' IF:

• they shared a classroom or interacted with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (teacher, ESO, ancillary staff or student)

Parents will be informed by the school if there has been a positive case of COVID-19

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO:

- if the student has symptoms, they must not attend school and get tested as soon as possible
- students (aside from the positive case/s) will be encouraged to continue attending school if they don't have any symptoms
- student attendance at OSHC should be avoided where possible for 7 days
- students should avoid attending school related extra-curricular activities for 7 days (such as camps, excursions, interschool sport, combined choir etc).

CLOSE CONTACT (for any exposure outside of school)*

IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA A 'CLOSE CONTACT' IS DEFINED AS:

- a household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period
 - someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period: o for 15 minutes or more and
 - where masks are not worn by the person and the COVID-19 case and
 - in close physical proximity (within 1.5 metres) and
 - o in an indoor setting
- someone who has been notified by SA Health that they are a close contact

• someone who has been to an <u>exposure site</u> listed on the SA Health website

WHAT DOES A CLOSE CONTACT NEED TO DO?

If you live with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 and you cannot appropriately quarantine away from them, you must quarantine for 14 days from the date their test was taken. You do not need to have a COVID-19 PCR test unless you develop any symptoms.

If you are a close contact and do not live with someone who has tested positive, or you can appropriately quarantine away from them, you must follow the below advice for close contacts:

- immediately quarantine for 7 days since you saw the positive case
- get a PCR test immediately and
- again on day 6 after exposure (a negative day 6 test is required to be released from quarantine) OR if no COVID-19 symptoms, rapid antigen test on day 1, 3, 5 and 7 (alternative days) after exposure
- get a PCR test again immediately if symptoms develop
- not attend high risk settings or COVID Management Plan events for 14 days after exposure
- wear a surgical mask when around others
- avoid contact with vulnerable people (young children, elderly, pregnant, people with chronic health conditions), avoid non-essential activities, avoid working across worksites and avoid shared spaces and maintain physical distancing on days 8 to 14 after exposure.

*Information current and sourced from Close contacts | SA Health on 25 February 2022