

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – COVID-19 Update Term 2

April 6 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your patience and ongoing support throughout the last term as we traversed the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. With Term 2 now underway, I write to provide you with an update on the management of COVID-19 in the context of our school community.

1. Monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms

You must continue to monitor your child for any COVID-19 symptoms. If any symptoms develop (even mild symptoms), students must not attend school and should follow SA Health advice in relation to testing and quarantine. If a positive result is advised, you will need to let the school know as soon as possible. We continue to work closely with SA Health. In instances where there are five or more COVID-19 cases in a class, we will activate the *Catholic Education South Australia Outbreak Management Plan for COVID-19* and communicate with families at that time.

2. Masks in Schools

For the first four weeks of this term, face masks are required to be worn indoors by staff and adults attending school sites as well as by all secondary school students. Masks are also strongly encouraged for Year 3-6 students. Whether this remains a requirement after week four will be advised as that time approaches. We ask that individuals use their own masks. Minimal stocks are provided at school, and many secondary students forget to bring their own masks daily.

3. Parent/caregiver attendance at school

Parents are welcome to come into the school grounds; however, we ask that parents refrain from entering classrooms except for pre-arranged meetings.

Parents are welcome to attend school meetings, events, and activities, including masses and assemblies. When indoors, please ensure you wear a face mask and maintain social distancing as best as possible.

4. Activity settings in schools

This term, year-level and multi-class assemblies and liturgies will resume. Schools are also permitted to resume dormitory-style school camps from week 3 of this term. We anticipate that the whole school gatherings will also resume later this term.

5. Close contacts

Please ensure you that you are familiar with the changes to close contact rules that took effect from April 30 2022. Please note that staff and students who are asymptomatic close contacts may continue to attend school, so long as they are testing in accordance with requirements and wearing a mask if they are over the age of 12. While there is no requirement for schools to keep a record of close contacts, please notify the school.

Further information is available at

https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid-19/cases+and+contacts/close+contact+advice/close+contact+advice

To access free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs), close contacts must register at

https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid-19/testing+and+tracing/rapid+antigen+testing+rat+for+covid-19 and nominate the collection point from which they will pick up a free pack of RATs.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we adapt to these arrangements in accordance with the SA Health advice to education settings.

If you have any immediate queries in relation to this correspondence, please get in touch with me via email. ros.oates@stjomb.catholic.edu.au

Kind regards,

Mrs Ros Oates Principal

Annoates.