



**WILLIAM CAREY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

21st July 2022

Principal's COVID Update 29

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you with information regarding the commencement of Term 3 and measures to support the health and safety of school community members at a time of high incidence of COVID, flu and colds.

While not mandated, mask wearing is 'strongly encouraged' when indoors

The NSW Department of Education is 'strongly encouraging' mask wearing for staff and students for the first four weeks of Term 3. This is a risk mitigation measure to reduce transmission of illness that can result in school absence and interruption of learning.

Similarly, **WCCS students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear a mask when indoors for the first four weeks of this term.**

Masks are still required when travelling on public and chartered transport (ie sports and excursion transport) for those aged 12 or older. Government face mask rules are [outlined here](#).

RAHT kit distribution to students Monday 25th July

Each student will receive one RAHT multipack at the end of the day on Monday 25th July. These RAHT kits can be used for symptomatic testing or for daily testing as part of the close contact requirements.

Notify the school of students who are COVID positive or household contacts

I also remind all families to ensure you **inform the school of any students who are positive to COVID-19 or are household contacts.** Use the email covidtests@wccs.nsw.edu.au to make this report.

The requirement and process for contacting the school has not changed.

What are the requirements for household/close contacts?

Household/close contacts do not need to self-isolate if they do not have any symptoms, but must follow the [NSW Health Household and Close Contact Guidelines](#) for 7 days from the last time someone in their household tested positive for COVID-19.

The Household and Close Contact Guidelines state:

- **If you have or develop [symptoms](#), you must self-isolate and get tested for COVID-19.**
- **Undertake a rapid antigen test (each day)**, even if you do not have symptoms.
- **If you are over 12 years of age you must wear a mask when you are in an indoor setting that is not your own home (e.g. at school)**
- **Masks are also encouraged in your home to reduce the risk of transmission** in your household.
- **Avoid large or crowded indoor gatherings**
- **Do not visit high-risk settings** (e.g. healthcare, aged care, disability care or correctional facilities)
- **Avoid contact with people at high risk of severe illness**, where possible.

Reminder for students to stay home if unwell, even if a RAHT is negative

NSW Health advice confirms that if a student is unwell and has any symptoms they should always test for COVID-19.

If the test comes back negative for COVID-19, the student should still not return to school until either:

- the student no longer has any symptoms, or
- a medical certificate is provided to the school confirming that symptoms are explained by another diagnosis (such as hay fever).

NSW Health has advised that it is important that students do not attend school if they are unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19. Rapid antigen tests can produce false-negative results and symptoms of other illnesses can also be similar to COVID-19, including flu, the common cold and stomach bugs. Health advice is that students who are sick should always stay home to rest and recover to avoid putting other students and staff at risk of getting sick.

The school continues to:

- assess risks and apply appropriate safeguards across activities and events
- encourage regular hand washing
- maximise ventilation
- maintain cleaning routines of the school

These measures are in place to help minimise the transmission of COVID-19 and other illnesses over a time of heightened ill-health. Should you have further questions regarding these matters, please contact the school via communitysupport@wccs.nsw.edu.au.

Again, I thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Keith McMullen