



"A light beneath our feet"

St Anthony's School

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Dear Parents and Carers

There have been further developments with the Covid rules for schools overnight. These rules are set by the Dept of Health and are not negotiable.

Parent and Student Protocols

- Prohibiting indoor face-to-face events such as meetings, performances and rehearsals
- Cancelling or postponing school camps;
- Limiting the contact between different year groups – including during play times
- Parents are permitted on school sites to drop-off and pick-up students but are not to enter classrooms. Parents are to leave school grounds immediately after their child/ren have been dropped off or picked up.
- A parent should only attend the school office or a teacher meeting in the event of a significant pastoral or welfare issue related to their child
- Wherever possible, and unless specifically requested otherwise by the teacher, interactions by staff with parents should take place over the phone or via email/online
- Parents are not to congregate on school sites; they must leave the school grounds as soon as their child has been dropped off
- Parents wishing to collect children from the classroom may do so; however, the gate will not be opened until a few minutes before bell time. We ask that parents wait in their cars or in front of the church until the gates are opened.
- Mask wearing for parents is mandatory while on school grounds
- At this stage primary students are not required to wear masks but may do so if families wish.

Close Contact Definition

The definition of a close contact with a positive case in a school or childcare setting is as follows:

- Face-to-face contact for 15 minutes or more with an infectious person, where a mask was not worn by the exposed person or the person with COVID-19;
- Interaction for more than two hours in a small indoor space, or interaction for more than two hours in a classroom environment with an infectious person, where masks have been removed for this period; or
- Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Testing and Isolation Protocols

The new testing and isolation guidelines include:

confirmed positive case

- self-isolate for a minimum of seven days; and
- at Day 7. If symptoms are still present, continue isolating until symptoms clear; or
- if no symptoms after Day 7, you can leave self-isolation. No testing required.

symptomatic close contact

- self-isolate for seven days from the date of contact with positive case; and
- take a PCR or RAT on Day 1 or as soon as possible
 - * if positive - follow positive case guidelines (as above)
 - * if negative - stay in isolation, take a RAT in 24 hours, and remain in isolation
 - * if positive - follow positive case guidelines (as above)
 - if negative - and no new household members have tested positive
 - take a RAT again on Day 7, before ending isolation

asymptomatic close contact

- self-isolate for seven days from the date of contact with positive case
- if symptoms develop, take a PCR or RAT; or o if positive - follow positive case guidelines (as above)
- if still asymptomatic, take a RAT on Day 7. o if positive - follow positive case guidelines
 - * if negative - and no new household members have tested positive self-isolation ends after Day 7, and people should monitor for symptoms

symptomatic but not a close contact

- get a PCR test immediately and isolate until result returned
 - * if positive - follow positive case guidelines (as above)
 - * if negative - you are not required to isolate but should stay home until symptoms clear
- if you take a RAT, because a PCR test is unavailable:
 - * if positive - follow positive case guidelines (as above)
 - * if negative - continue to isolate and repeat RAT in 24 hours - if negative after this follow-up test, you are not required to isolate but should stay home until symptoms clear

For more information including details about critical workers in a high caseload environment, visit <https://www.wa.gov.au>

Please note that the Privacy Act forbids us from providing information as to who has or might have Covid or what year levels/teachers are involved.

I thank you for taking the time to read this important update as we move forward in an ever-changing environment.

God bless,

Therese Bandy
Principal.