



25 March 2022

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Staff

**COVID-19 Update 2022 – No. 12 (as of 25 March 2022)**

As the week draws to a close, it is timely that I write to update our community in relation to recent developments in relation to COVID-19. These include:

- [1] Premier’s Announcement
- [2] UFCC Caseload Update
- [3] COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal Update
- [4] Updated Letter from the CEWA Executive Director re the Current Very High Caseload Settings
- [5] Key Points in the Current Very High Caseload Settings

**[1] PREMIER’S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Yesterday, the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan, announced that based on the latest health advice, from 12:01am Thursday 31 March, most Level 2 measures will be eased back to Level 1, with some modifications based on risk, which for schools, means masks are still required indoors for students in Year 3 and above.

All other measures pertaining to schools remain the same.

**[2] UFCC CASELOAD UPDATE**

This week the College recorded its highest number of students testing positive for COVID-19. Without trying to minimise our situation, it is important to contextualise these figures as our cumulative caseload (84) represents 5.8% of the student population while the weekly count to date (36) constitutes 2.4%. At this point in time, our school community continues to experience predominately good health.

Wk	K	PP	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Total
5								1			1	1		1	4
6	3				2		1	6	1	7			2	2	24
7	3		1	3				1	1	4	2	3	2		20
8	1	1	2	3	1	2	2		2	3	11	1		7	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>84</b>

*[As of Friday 25 March 2022]*

The number of school-based close contacts identified across both campuses remain relatively small with most able to recommence classes the next day having tested negative and presenting as symptom free.

### [3] COVID-19 SELF-REPORTING PORTAL UPDATE

Thank you to parents/caregivers for proactively engaging with the COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal. Please note that all new notifications must be made through the portal which can be accessed via the College website.

All COVID-19 positive results (PCR or RAT) must be reported to the Department of Health (WA Health) by Parents/Caregivers and Staff, and failure to do so can result in a fine.

**Important Note:** If there is a record from WA Health of a positive notification, a copy of the notification should also be uploaded to the portal. To attach a new record, click on the *attach icon* and upload the applicable document (*Refer below*)



### [4] UPDATED LETTER FROM THE CEWA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RE THE CURRENT VERY HIGH CASELOAD SETTINGS

Please find attached an updated copy of the letter that I recently forwarded to families on behalf of Dr Debra Sayce (Executive Director of Catholic Education). There was some concern that the original letter may be misleading to parents/caregivers who may have thought that the RATs are for student use. As such, the revised letter clearly reflects that the Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) are specifically to facilitate the testing of Critical Workers.

### [5] KEY POINTS IN THE CURRENT VERY HIGH CASELOAD SETTINGS

**Q1** What are the quarantine requirements for household close contacts if another member of the household tests positive within or on the last day of isolation?

The close contacts are not “reset” if a household member tests positive within the first 7 days of the household’s isolation/quarantine period. However, if it is from day 8 onwards, they are sent back to restart quarantine.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

If dad is COVID+, the household must quarantine for 7 days

*(Where possible, Dad should avoid contact with the rest of the household).*

- If mum tests positive to COVID on day 6 of her quarantine, but three children do not, then:
  - o the three children may return to normal activities following the return of a negative PCR/ RAT (and the completion of 7 days from Dad's positive test) and are not symptomatic; children may need to wear masks, depending on their age, and be restricted from entering high risk sites (residential aged care etc), as per "requirements following quarantine" here:  
[https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-close-contacts](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-close-contacts)
- Dad may return to work, must wear a mask for 7 days
- Mum continues isolation for 7-day period, then wears mask for 7 days  
*(where possible, Mum should avoid contact with the rest of the household)*

Household is therefore 'released' from quarantine/ isolation requirements.

Four days later, eldest child tests COVID+

- Eldest child must commence isolation for 7-day period  
*(Where possible, eldest should avoid contact with the rest of the household)*
- Two children must return to quarantine for 7-day period
- Mum and dad may continue to work, due to being in 8-week post COVID window

**Q2** *Is a test required for a COVID-19 positive person who returns after their 7 days isolation?*

- No exit testing (PCR test or RAT) is required.
- The person must not have any symptoms before leaving isolation.

**Q3** *What is the status of a COVID positive person who has served their 7-day isolation and who also have a mask exemption?*

Under the regulations, a COVID positive person can leave isolation and return to school or work and are required to wear a mask for a further 7 days both inside and outside. However, if a student or staff member has a mask exemption from a qualified medical practitioner, they are not required to wear a mask under these circumstances.

**Q4** *What are the quarantine requirements for student close contacts at school and when not at school?*

- Students who are a close contact, other than a **household close contact**, can continue to attend school under a modified quarantine arrangement, which includes the student being allowed to attend:
  - o school;
  - o Outside School Hours Care (OSHC); and
  - o sporting or cultural training, practice or events **organised through the relevant school** and held immediately before or after school **on the school grounds**, travelling between the student's usual place of residence and the place where the activity above takes place.
- Otherwise, they must quarantine at home at all other times until the full 7 days have passed – returning on day 8.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

I hope you all are staying well during this unprecedented time. One step, one day at a time...together. There is much to look forward to once this current circumstance passes.

May the sky stay blue, may the wind be at your back, and may you find something that makes you smile every day! Be safe, be there for others, enjoy your weekend and remember we will get through this...together.

With regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Mills', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Geoff Mills**