



2 November 2022

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Staff

**COVID-19 UPDATE – 2 November 2022**

On 30 September, the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic which discussed a nationally consistent approach to managing cases of COVID-19 in Australia. This approach took effect on **14 October 2022** and aimed to limit the impact of COVID-19 upon our nation whilst also returning the country to a new state of normal.

As COVID-19 case management transitions to a ‘business-as-usual’ approach, Public Health Operations ceased its COVID-19 surveillance, contact tracing and outbreak management activities from **28 October 2022**.

Consistent with the direction from the Minister of Education, schools are open for learning and students must attend in accordance with the Education Act. As such, keeping our College healthy, open and providing face-to-face learning to students remains as a major priority.

The following guidelines have been developed for schools as we learn to live with COVID-19 and are based on current health advice.

**Mitigation Strategies:**

All staff, students and visitors to the College have a responsibility to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. This may be achieved through ongoing use of good hygiene practices:

- Staff, students and visitors to stay home when sick
- Covering mouth/ nose when coughing or sneezing
- Washing hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water
- Utilising alcohol-based hand sanitiser / wipes throughout the day
- Practices to reduce direct contact are strongly encouraged
- Continued use of strong ventilation practices meaning the use of natural and mechanical modes of air flow through classrooms and indoor spaces.

**Testing Positive for COVID:**

Where a positive COVID-19 test result is returned:

- RAT results need to be registered via WA Health and the CEWA COVID-19 Reporting Portal
- Persons with COVID-19 must remain home until symptoms resolve
- If symptoms have resolved they may choose not to wear a mask upon their return to work.

**COVID-19 Close Contacts:**

While isolation for close contacts is no longer mandated, close contacts are encouraged to:

- Test daily for 5 days and only attend school following a negative RAT result
- Avoid high risk settings.

During the past week the College has experienced something of a mini-surge in relation to those testing positive for Covid-19 and serves as a timely reminder to be vigilant in relation to mitigate the risk of infection, monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and test if symptoms develop.

I extend my appreciation for our individual and collective efforts in keeping our school community healthy and safe as we continue to learn to live in this 'new normal'.

With regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

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

**Geoff Mills**