

24 February 2022

## COVID Update

Dear parents,

A big thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our school and students during the pandemic – especially prioritising safety and learning.

The Premier and Minister for Education have announced changes to school settings for the remainder of Term 1. These updated settings were developed in close consultation with NSW Health and key stakeholders to ensure we continue to keep our schools open for learning, while keeping up with changing community settings.

The updated settings include:

- We will continue the use of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for twice-weekly testing of students and staff until Friday 25 February.
- **From Monday 28 February**, we will move to symptomatic testing. Tests are to be used at your discretion if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. In the coming weeks, our school will provide each student and staff member with 8 RAT kits (K/6 Red students and staff will each receive 20 RAT kits). Beyond that, students and staff can access PCR tests or buy their own RATs as these are now available and accessible in the community.
- Masks will continue to be required indoors for all school staff, volunteers and visitors including parents and carers in primary schools until Friday 4 March. This means that **from Monday 7 March**, masks will no longer be mandatory for all staff. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so.
- In line with community settings, workers who support our students with disability in SSPs, support units and some mainstream classrooms will be required to wear masks while working with students.
- **From Monday 28 February, all students will be dismissed from the school gates at 3:00pm each day.** Students will no longer be required to be kept in year groups or other cohorts and we will no longer be required to use staggered start or finish times. We will continue to use the core layered COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events.
- **From Monday 28 February**, our school will consider activities such as assemblies, parent-teacher meetings and other gatherings in the coming days. We will let you know if these can proceed with our school in a COVID-smart way. All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including vaccinations, maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

**A reminder that your child will receive 8 nasal or saliva swab RAT kits in the coming weeks.** Kits will be placed in your child's bag to bring home. Please contact the school if you do not want kits sent home with your child. Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](https://www.tga.gov.au) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

Students using saliva testing kits must not eat or drink for 30 minutes before taking the saliva RAT to give more accurate results.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination including boosters when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) to book an appointment near you.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Danny Scott  
Principal