

Easing of COVID Restrictions

An update for parents

Thursday 28 April 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers

As of 12:01am Friday 29 April, restrictions around COVID 19 have been scaled back considerably. However, there are still some measures we need to put in place in terms of ensuring the safety of every student and staff member. A reminder that even though restrictions have been reduced, **should staff or students get ill then they will still not be able to come to school**. This causes issues in terms of staffing as finding relief staff is currently extremely difficult. As such, we still need to reduce the spread as much as possible and so the following actions will be taken.

Masks will no longer be compulsory for staff, students or parents on school site.

We will not be enforcing the wearing of masks except for students as they get onto public transport at the end of the day. Staff and students are more than welcome to wear masks at any time they feel they want or need to. We are happy to provide masks for this purpose.

There are no longer any close contacts except household close contacts. Household close contacts are able to attend school/work as long as they complete negative RATs each day and are asymptomatic. If this is the case, they will be required to wear a mask at school.

Any parent that reports their child as a close contact will be offered 5 RATs per child to enable them to test each day before coming to school. **WE WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TEST ANY CHILDREN!** Please call the school to advise us of the close contact and we will support you through this process.

Schools are allowed to run events such as assemblies and school balls etc.

We will develop a plan for assemblies to return and a schedule for their implementation. Parents will be invited and will be offered a mask on arrival should they wish to wear one. I will be encouraging staff to wear masks in these gatherings at least in the near future.

Parents are allowed in classrooms without masks.

I will be strongly encouraging staff to wear masks in these situations. I would also welcome parents doing so should they wish to. Extended planned meetings with parents should still happen in the front office where possible.

We are no longer required to check vaccination status on visitors onto school grounds.

We will remove this requirement and return to the previous sign in processes. Note that there is still a requirement for regular volunteers and workers on site to be vaccinated.

There is no longer a requirement to check in to venues using the SAFEWA app.

We will remove all checking in of this kind.

We are now able to mix classes in year groups and across year groups.

Any programs done which involve mixing of class groups may now go ahead.

Camps and Excursions can go ahead.

These will still require considerable contingency planning, but staff have been given the go ahead to plan such activities where required.

Talking with secondary students, many of them intend to continue to wear masks in the near future inside. I find this attitude refreshing and extremely mature and I encourage and support them in doing so. Over time, I am sure that people will become more comfortable with the new normal and the need for masks and any restrictions will be welcomed.

I continue to appreciate your support on all things COVID. It has made negotiating all of the changes in rules a whole lot easier.

Mark Brookes
Principal