

8 February 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

The State Government announced the new high caseload protocols for school and childcare settings late Monday afternoon. Further restrictions have been placed on schools to reduce the impact of a potential Covid case.

Modifications began this week to keep students, where practicable, within their year levels including eating areas and limiting activities that require more than one year level to come together.

Monday's announcement focused on the following main areas:

1. School Events
2. Parents and Carers on School Sites
3. Close Contact Definition and Rules
4. Testing and Isolation Protocols

1. **School Events**

Modified/cancelled as below-

- Class mass/liturgy – can continue; parents unable to attend.
- Merit Assemblies – cancelled. Merit recipients will be awarded their Merit Award in class and a photo sent home to parents.
- Choir will run in separate year levels. Mrs La Galia to provide further information.
- Ukulele Club will run in separate years. Mrs La Galia to provide further information.
- Swimming Club – cancelled at this point in time. Restrictions permitting, will run at later dates – Mr Hignett to provide further information in due course.
- Year 6 Camp has been postponed and we have been fortunate to book some dates for later in the year.
- Swimming Carnival – Mr Hignett to provide further information closer to the date
- Indoor face to face events (such as meetings, performances, rehearsals etc) will not occur.
- Contact between different year levels has been limited.
- P&F and Advisory Council Meetings – online only.

2. **Parents and Carers on School Sites**

- Parents permitted on the school site for drop-off and pick-up in outdoor settings only therefore parents cannot not enter classrooms.
- Year 1-6 Parents and carers are encouraged to use the kiss and ride in the morning and afternoons.



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- Classrooms open at 8.30am and the lessons commence at 8.45am – we ask parents to drop students off between these times so that students can go straight to their classrooms to avoid waiting in the school grounds.
- Gatherings of parents on school sites is to be avoided including gathering in close proximity on the verandas in the mornings/afternoons.
- If you need to walk your child to the classroom, please farewell them on the veranda. PK and K parents hand children over to the staff outside the door.
- Parent volunteers not permitted in the classroom.
- A parent or carer should only attend the school office in the event of significant pastoral or welfare issues related to their child; wherever possible interactions between staff and parents should take place over the phone or online.
- Parent-teacher meetings are restricted to online or telephone.
- Mask wearing for parents in the outdoors on a school site where 1.5m physical distancing cannot be maintained.

3. **Close Contact Definition and Rules**

A specific school, and early childhood and education centre, close contact definition for a high caseload environment will be in place from today. It will be similar to the definition that applies to the general community and is designed to safely reduce the number of staff and students considered as close contacts.

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

- A household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID who has had contact with them during their infectious period
- 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.

4. **Testing and Isolation Protocols**

If students, families or staff in schools or childcare centres have been in an exposure site, they are encouraged to get a PCR test to confirm if they are COVID-19 positive. The new testing and isolation guidelines include:

confirmed positive case

- self-isolate for a minimum of seven days; and
- at Day 7, if symptoms 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



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- 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
 - if positive - follow positive case guidelines (as above)
- if still asymptomatic, take a RAT on Day 7
 - 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 visit <https://www.wa.gov.au>.

For exposure sites visit <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-locations-visited-confirmed-cases>.

Please note that there was an exposure site in Padbury as per information on above website.

Our priority at PCPS will continue to be the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and community. Please keep unwell children at home, utilise the hand sanitiser stations around the school, wear your mask, keep 1.5m social distancing and sign in using the SafeWA/ServiceWA App.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards
Margaret Williamson
Principal



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