



Emmanuel Anglican College Community Update: 25 February 2022

Adjustment to COVID-19 settings in schools

Dear students, staff and families,

Following consultation with representatives from Independent, Catholic and Government Schools, The New South Wales Government has updated the COVID-safe settings for all schools.

The following is a summary of the changes.

From Monday 28 February:

- **Cohorting and separation of groups is no longer required**
Students will now be able to mix freely in the playgrounds and can attend assemblies and other gatherings indoors.
- **Masks are no longer mandatory in the Secondary School (Year 7-Year 12)**
While we encourage all staff and students to continue to wear masks while indoors, they are no longer mandatory.
- **Masks continue to be mandatory on public transport**
This applies to students aged 12 years and older, and staff when travelling to and from school and during school excursions by public transport or by chartered or private transport services.
- **Rapid Antigen Home Testing moving to 'symptomatic testing' only**
Students and staff are only required to undertake a Rapid Antigen Home Test when they present with COVID-19 like symptoms. Surveillance testing on Monday and Wednesday is no longer required.

From Monday 7 March:

- **Masks are no longer mandatory for staff in the Early Learning Centre and Primary School**
Masks remain mandatory for staff working with primary students and the ELC until 7 March. This is in recognition that vaccination rates among younger age students are much lower.

Provision of additional Rapid Antigen Home Test (RAHT) Kits

- The NSW Government has agreed to provide an additional 8 RAHT kits to each student and staff member to be used for 'symptomatic testing' across the remainder of the term. We anticipate these kits will be delivered to EAC early next week and once available, a distribution plan will be announced.

Continuation of good health and hygiene habits

- Any students and staff with cold and flu like symptoms or respiratory illness are to stay home, seek medical advice and get tested for COVID-19. They are not to return to school until symptoms are resolved.
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged throughout the school day. Hand sanitisers will be readily available and all toilets have soap dispensers.

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- Additional cleaning of facilities and surfaces will occur during the day.
- Students are to bring water bottles to school as bubblers are refilling stations only.
- Doors and windows across the College will be open to promote cross flow ventilation.

Testing positive to COVID-19

If a student or staff member displays any COVID-19 like symptoms then they are not to attend school and get tested. If the test is negative then the individual must wait until symptoms cease before returning to school.

If a student tests positive, they must follow the current health advice. Currently a positive case is required to isolate for 7 days and then may return to school once symptoms have ceased. The family are required under the PHO to notify the College of a student's positive result and if using a RAHT, families are to register a positive result on the Services NSW App. A positive PCR test will lead to an automatic notification to NSW Health.

Household contacts and requirements to isolate

If a member of a student's household tests positive, then all those who reside at the same address are deemed a household contact and must isolate for 7 days. Students are not permitted to attend school if they are a 'household contact'. Under the essential worker exemption, school staff who are deemed household contacts, may attend work if they are symptom free and if they complete a RAHT each day for 7 days.

Managing students who become unwell at school

If a child has symptoms or is sick they must stay at home and get tested. If they present at school with symptoms, they will be sent to sick bay and their parents contacted to come and collect them.

General health advice

I ask all families to stay informed of the latest health advice, to be proactive in supporting our community efforts to protect ourselves against the risk of illness and to take up the opportunity to get your children vaccinated. The latest NSW Health advice can be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Once again, I thank you for your support, patience and goodwill as we continue to navigate these uncertain times together.

Your faithfully,

Mr Robert Tobias
Principal