



WERRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Dear parents and carers

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 such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. Our school will provide each student and staff member with **8 tests per student and staff in schools and 20 tests per student and staff for support classes**.
- Beyond that, students and staff can access PCR tests or buy their own rapid antigen tests as these are now readily 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.
- **FOR WORKERS SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY** – In line with community settings, workers who support our students with disability in the support units will be required to wear masks while working with students.
- From Monday 28 February, visitors for specific purposes can be allowed back on school sites regardless of their vaccination status, eg- purchases or payments at the office or canteen, for specific invited events- cross country or parent- teacher meetings.
- **Our school will consider activities such as 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.**
- **At this stage due to capacity limits in the hall K-2 and 3-6 assemblies are unable to recommence.**
- All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process – this includes the schools check-in QR code.
- The canteen will resume normal operations including over the counter sales at recess and lunch from 28th February.

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.

Cohorting no longer required

As of Monday 28 February, 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 however; continue to bring Kindergarten students out to the gates for pick up a little earlier at 2.55pm for the remainder of the term. All other classes will be dismissed at 3pm. We will continue to use the core layered COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination including boosters when eligible. Go to <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/> to book an appointment near you.

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

Kind regards,

Christine Avery

Principal