



Term 2 Parent Briefing # 2 COVID – 19

Sunday 31 April 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Following the easing of 'baseline' public health measures from Friday 29 April @ 12.01am and subsequent consultation with Catholic Education WA, the following will apply at Liwara Catholic Primary School from **Monday, 2nd May 2022**:

Masks

- The mask mandate no longer applies to staff, visitors and students in schools. Students and staff are welcome to wear a mask should they wish, especially where social distancing is not possible.
- Asymptomatic CLOSE CONTACTS* (in Year 7 or above 12 years of age) are required to wear a mask outside of the home at all times.

Parents and Caregivers

Parents and caregivers are permitted on school sites and in classrooms in order to:

- Support school services (canteen/ uniform shop/library).
- Attend both year level and whole school assemblies, whole school prayer and special infrequent school events.
- Drop off/pick up.
- Morning reading/activities or to volunteer in classroom activities.
- Attend parent teacher meetings.

School Events

The following activities may take place without restriction:

- Community events (including Mothers Day Breakfast)
- Choir/Rock Band
- Whole school assemblies (including parent audiences)
- Sporting programs (including Cross Country and Interschool)
- Excursions and Incursions
- After school extracurricular activities (including Music rocks/Lego Club/Soccer Clinic). Please check with the provider for more details.
- School Advisory Council Meetings
- P&F Meetings

School camps can also take place but will have additional permission, testing and safety protocols.

Close Contacts

*A close contact is now defined as:

- A household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period.
- Someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period where:

- they spent greater than 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in any 24-hour period in a residential setting (for instance a home or accommodation facility).
- where masks have been removed by both people during the period of contact.
- Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Asymptomatic close contacts are not required to isolate but do have to follow testing and mask wearing requirements which include wearing a mask (staff and anyone over 12 only) and daily negative RAT result for seven days.

Parents/Caregivers are instructed to inform the school if their child tests positive and must keep them home until well and free of symptoms. Positive results are to be reported to the school via the <https://cewa-collections.powerappsportals.com/COVID-19-Self-Reporting-Form/>

Parents/caregivers are reminded to also report their child's positive RAT to WA Health at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/mandatory-registration-of-positive-rapid-antigen-tests>

Parents are also encouraged to report negative tests to the school via <https://cewa-collections.powerappsportals.com/COVID-19-Self-Reporting-Form/> to further support the school with the management of COVID-19.

Please be assured that the wellbeing and safety of staff, students and community is our priority. If you have any concerns, please contact me or a member of the leadership team.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Millar
Principal

FAQs

Can asymptomatic close contact students return to school?

Yes. Parents must inform the school of the child's close contact status and should do so via the CEWA COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal. Students who return to school must follow the requirements set out by the WA Government including mask wearing (Year 7 and above) and daily RATs. Students in primary school are not required to wear a mask.

Where a household close contact is in Year 3 or below, are they required to wear a mask?

No. Any child under the age of 12 is not required to wear a face mask.

Is it compulsory for students who are asymptomatic close contacts to attend school?

Yes; school attendance is compulsory and students should return to normal classes unless symptomatic or a positive COVID-19 result is returned.

What recording is required by the school and what evidence needs to be supplied for persons identified as close contacts?

Staff and students - by parents, are encouraged to report their close contact status via the CEWA COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal. Staff & parents are welcome to upload photo evidence of their negative RAT, however, this is not a compulsory requirement. Positive RAT COVID-19 cases must be reported on the WA Health website.

Do students and staff who are close contacts need to take a RAT each day prior to coming to school?

Yes. Students and staff who are close contacts must take a RAT each day before coming to school and are encouraged to note their result via the portal. Where a student or staff member becomes symptomatic or returns a positive result, they must commence isolation protocols.

When will the school provide work for students who are not at school?

Schools will provide work for students who need to stay at home due to isolation requirements. Schools are not required to provide work to students who are being kept at home by parents/carers.

If a positive case returns to school before the WA Health recommended date of return, are we as a school responsible to send them home?

Yes. The parents of students who are COVID-19 positive should be immediately contacted and requested to pick up their child. The child should not return to school until they have completed their 7 day isolation period.