



St Norbert
College

PREPARED
FOR ALL
GOOD WORKS

8 February 2022

Dear Students and Parents,

As you are aware, the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Sue Ellery and the Minister for Child Protection and Community Services, the Hon Simone McGurk announced yesterday, the new high caseload protocols specifically for school and childcare settings.

The high caseload settings announced last month, the new close contact definition and new testing and isolation protocols have taken effect as of today, Tuesday 8 February 2022.

Key points from this announcement are as follows:

- Additional measures in place to keep schools and childcare settings operating safely in a high caseload environment;
- New testing and isolation protocols begin today, reducing isolation to seven days;
- New health measures to reduce movement and exposure risks on school sites;
- Indoor events prohibited;
- Restricting groups of students to contact with their year cohort, where possible;
- Expanded mask wearing for parents;
- New arrangements for contact and interactions between staff and parents.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Schools will need to undertake measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 entering or being transmitted on school grounds.

These steps include:

- Prohibiting indoor face-to-face events (such as meetings, performances and rehearsals);
- Cancelling or postponing school camps;
- Limiting the contact between different year groups where practicable.

CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITIONS AND RULES

A Health Department infographic summarising the new rules is attached.

As noted above, a specific school close contact definition for a high caseload environment is now in place. It is 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:

- 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.

PARENTS ON SCHOOL SITES

- Parents will be permitted on the College site for drop-off and pick-up in outdoor locations only; consequently, parents should not be visiting classrooms, College grounds or offices;

- A parent should only enter the front office in the event of a significant pastoral or welfare issue related to their child; wherever possible interactions by staff with parents should take place over the phone or via email/online;
- Access to the College Uniform Shop will be by appointment. Please contact the Uniform Shop Manager directly via email uniform.shop@norbert.wa.edu.au
- Gatherings of parents on the College site should be avoided;
- Any prospective Parent-teacher meetings should occur online or over the phone;
- Mask wearing for parents is expanded to outdoors where physical distancing can't be maintained in regions with existing mask mandates.


We ask parents and carers to also familiarise themselves with the recently released **"Testing and Isolation Protocols"** as announced yesterday and also included in the attached infographic.

Our College Leadership Team are meeting regularly and attention has already been given to decisions around impacted events and our daily operations for at least the first five weeks of this term.

As has been the case throughout this pandemic, we again remind parents that ***if your child feels unwell, please keep them at home and seek medical advice if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.*** Please use the absentee email should your child be absent from school. absentee@norbert.wa.edu.au

We again thank you in advance of your support and assistance as we proceed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Harvey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Simon Harvey
PRINCIPAL



Testing and isolation protocols

Beginning tomorrow, 12:01am Tuesday 8 February

New positive COVID-19 case protocols:



Report

If PCR test unavailable, report positive RAT to WA Health



Self-isolate

Self-isolate for a minimum of 7 days



Have symptoms on Day 7

Continue isolating until symptoms clear



No symptoms after Day 7

If no symptoms after Day 7, leave self-isolation
No test is required

New definition of a close contact and protocols:



A household member or intimate partner of an infectious case.

OR



15 minutes face-to-face or 2 hours in a room where either you or the infectious case have been without a mask.

OR



Someone who has been notified by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Self-isolation protocols for a close contact who has symptoms:

- Isolate for 7 days from the date of contact with positive case.
- PCR or RAT on Day 1 or as soon as possible. **If test is positive, follow the positive case protocols.**
- If negative, stay in self-isolation and take RAT in 24 hours. **If test is positive, follow the positive case protocols.**
- If 2nd test negative, stay in self-isolation and RAT on Day 7. **If test is positive, follow the positive case protocols.**
- If Day 7 test is negative, you have no symptoms, and no new household members have tested positive, leave self-isolation and continue to monitor for symptoms.

Self-isolation protocols for a close contact who has no symptoms:

- Isolate for 7 days from the date of contact with positive case.
- If symptoms develop, **follow the protocols for a close contact with symptoms.**
- If still showing no symptoms take RAT on Day 7. **If positive, follow the positive case protocols.**
- If Day 7 test is negative, you have no symptoms, and no new household members have tested positive, leave self-isolation and continue to monitor for symptoms.



If you are not a close contact, but have symptoms, take a PCR test and self-isolate until negative result returned. In this situation, only use a RAT if PCR test is unavailable.



More information can be found at [wa.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au)