

4 March 2022

## **COVID-19 Update**

Dear Parents and Carers

I would firstly like to thank you for your excellent support of WA Health COVID-19 safety related protocols that we have in place at St Norbert College.

The wellbeing of everyone at the College is paramount and we are grateful to be working in partnership with you to support the health and safety of our students.

In adapting to the evolving COVID-19 landscape, I would like to inform you of some updated procedures and practices.

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases increases in the boarder community, it is realistic to expect our school to be likewise impacted in the coming weeks. Given the growing case numbers, and the latest COVID case load settings, it becomes even more critical that we collectively continue to uphold the prescribed safety measures including:

- Wearing masks
- Maintaining required physical distancing
- Maintaining good hygiene practices

To provide clarity and consistency of communication to our community in this high caseload, level 2 environment, we will provide weekly updates to families regarding positive COVID-19 cases reported to the school, along with reminders about COVID-safe practices and procedures. This will be a more effective means of keeping families informed, rather than multiple messages.

In updating our community for this week, I can inform you that two positive cases in the College community have been confirmed earlier today. These positive cases from the Year 12 cohort and any associated close contacts have been isolating as a precaution as early as Wednesday, in line with WA Health requirements.

Please rest assured that we have and will continue to communicate directly with those members of our community who are identified as a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 positive case and work with them in support of learning continuity during the required isolation period.

If families are not contacted directly by the College when a confirmed case is reported to the school, then their children are not considered close contacts and should therefore attend classes as per usual.

A reminder that students are not to attend school if they are unwell (symptomatic) or test positive to COVID-19, until permitted under WA Health regulations. Parents/caregivers are asked to seek medical advice for their child if they are unwell and to get them tested. Please note that the Omicron strain can present with less typical symptoms such as diarrhoea, particularly in children. Positive COVID-19 test results are to be reported directly to the respective Deputy Principal as per follows:

- Years 7 and 10: Mr Rod Dowling ([RDowling@norbert.wa.edu.au](mailto:RDowling@norbert.wa.edu.au))

- Years 8 and 11: Mr Peter Hawke ([PHawke@norbert.wa.edu.au](mailto:PHawke@norbert.wa.edu.au))
- Years 9 and 12: Ms Sharon Rainford ([SRainford@norbert.wa.edu.au](mailto:SRainford@norbert.wa.edu.au))

We thank students and families for considering the health of others when at school, at home and in their social lives. When planning social activities outside of school, as always, we encourage students to minimise their exposure to risky health situations.

As a Catholic school, the safety and care of our students is always our priority. We encourage families to contact our Pastoral Team at the College if their child is experiencing heightened levels of stress or anxiety during this COVID-19 impacted environment. We would also invite parents and carers to access the CEWA developed resources on wellbeing which are available at:

- <https://covid19.cewa.edu.au/wellbeing/>
- <https://covid19.cewa.edu.au/resources/>

We are well prepared for educational continuity and we have comprehensive plans in place. Our Educational Continuity Plan has been developed over the past three years and is tried and tested. The College provided details regarding educational continuity on Wednesday 23 February – this information can be found on our website; <https://www.norbert.wa.edu.au/about-snc/covid-19-updates/>

I once again offer my sincere gratitude to our community for their outstanding support as we work together to ensure the ongoing growth and care of our students in these dynamic and challenging times.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the College if you have any queries. If you have health concerns, please contact WA Health on 1300 316 555 or at [PHOpsClinical@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:PHOpsClinical@health.wa.gov.au) .

Yours sincerely

Simon Harvey  
Principal