



25 July 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I write to you with some updated information regarding COVID-19 smart measures for schools to minimise transmission and ensure St Edward's is a safe environment for all.

As you would be aware from daily media reports, there has been a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, as well as influenza and other respiratory viruses. On Friday, the College received a briefing from NSW Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, and representatives from NSW Department of Education on appropriate measures that should be implemented in the face of the current wave of illness.

In response, St Edward's will be mirroring the NSW Department of Education four-week blitz of COVID safe measures to assist with the reduction of transmission, keep members of the College community safe and reduce the impact of COVID and other viruses on the Teaching and Learning program at the College.

Commencing today the following measures are being implemented:

- strongly encouraging mask-wearing indoors for all students, staff and visitors. Students are reminded that mask wearing continues to be mandated on public transport.
- encouraging regular hand washing and other personal hygiene practices.
- continuing enhanced day cleaning of the College.
- assessing risk and applying appropriate safeguards across activities and events. As such, College assemblies have been cancelled for the next four weeks. The College is currently assessing the risk posed by other planned events and will adjust plans as necessary – organisers will communicate directly with parents and students of the appropriate covid safe measures implemented.
- Reducing visitors to site, especially for large gatherings and always practicing appropriate social distancing and strongly encouraging mask wearing for those who do attend. Please note, Year 10 Subject Counselling meetings planned for Thursday afternoon will continue, but with the appropriate COVID safe measures in place.

The College is expecting to receive additional supplies of Rapid Antigen Home Tests (RAHTs) soon to assist with testing for staff and students if they have the slightest of symptoms or are household contacts. More information will be communicated when these supplies arrive.

I ask families to continue to take a very conservative approach if their son displays any signs and symptoms. Whereas Rapid Antigen Tests are one strategy in monitoring your son's health, I provide an important reminder that the testing regime is a precautionary measure. The test results are sometimes inaccurate, can lag in detection time and rely on being correctly administered. It is important that families carefully monitor their sons for signs and symptoms and do not send their son to school if either they test positive or are displaying signs and symptoms. Parents and carers are the best people to know the health status of their children and I ask for your support in protecting our community.



A further reminder also of the need to notify the College of a positive test result via [this link](#) or via the College Website/Latest News page. Please note you still need to email or phone the office to notify your son's absence.

Students and staff can continue to attend school if they are a household contact under the following conditions:

- Conduct a daily rapid antigen test before school. They should not attend school if they receive a positive result.
- Must wear a face mask indoors.

We thank you in advance for your efforts to support these measures in the spirit of cooperation and partnership. It is our hope that these safety measures assist reducing transmission in school, but also allow for minimal interruption to normal College operations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 4321 6400 or via email at [principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au)

Yours sincerely

Cameron Alexander

Acting Principal

