

Dear parent or carer

Once again we have new COVID updates. Please read as rapid antigen home testing program will begin. This is only for school settings when COVID cases have been identified.

In order to minimise disruptions caused to schools by COVID-19 cases, and to maximise the time our students have learning in the classrooms a number of changes to **operations for schools** will be introduced from Monday 29 November for the remainder of Term 4.

### **Rapid antigen 'test-to-stay' program**

A rapid antigen home testing (RAHT) 'test-to-stay' program will be available to any student who is **a close contact of a COVID-19 case in a school setting**. This will enable them to get back to school immediately following a negative PCR test and on the basis they do daily RAHTs before attending school across 7 consecutive days. This means that our students' learning is able to continue with minimal interruptions following a positive COVID-19 case. Full support will be available to help you implement this should it be required at our school and many other schools and students are already using RAHTs successfully.

### **Singing, chanting and instruments that rely on breath allowed outdoors**

In line with community settings, instruments that rely on breath and singing and chanting will now be permitted if held outdoors, within cohorts, with distancing in place and where there is no sharing of instruments. Under these same conditions music classes, bands, ensembles, group repetition and choirs within cohorts can also resume.

### **An update to our cleaning protocols**

NSW public schools are cleaned by professional cleaners each day, guided by expert advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), the National Health and Medical Research Council and NSW Health. As we have already seen in many schools, cohorting and our other COVID-safe layers of protection have been effective at minimising disruption. NSW Health has provided clear advice, based on evidence that the department's regular clean, day clean and enhanced clean provides a more than sufficient layer of protection in schools for students and staff. NSW Health have advised there is no health and safety benefit to undertaking an environmental clean which is highly disruptive to a school's ongoing operations and can close a school for up to 2 days. This is another important change that will get students back into classrooms faster in parallel with the 'test-to-stay' program. You can read more on the department's [website](#) about the different levels of cleaning in place in our schools.

Please continue to refer to the department's [Advice for families page](#) for the latest information on settings in our schools.

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

Please keep checking our calendar updates for further information regarding end of year school activities and events.

## **Regards**

Debbie Hunter

Principal.