



16th November 2022

TO: Parents and Carers

RE: COVID-19 Safety at Northside

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Victorian Government has reported a new surge of COVID-19 cases in Victoria during the past week. The following is a reminder to support our approach to being COVIDSafe at Northside.

- **Stay at Home When Unwell:** Any staff or student who is unwell should continue to remain at home. This is about keeping staff and students healthy and well in our school and reducing the spread of both COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases. The Department of Health strongly recommends that students and school staff who are symptomatic but have not tested positive not attend school. This does not include students with pre-existing conditions such as hay fever.
- **Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT):** All staff and families at Northside are reminded to be vigilant about the onset of COVID-19 symptoms and are advised to use a rapid antigen test (or a PCR test if they cannot access a rapid antigen test) if they have symptoms. Staff and students should refrain from returning to school if they remain symptomatic unless it is known that their symptoms are caused by an underlying health condition or medication.
- **Isolate:** Staff and students who report a positive result are recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and not attend school until their symptoms have resolved. Staff and students must report any positive test results to the College by emailing Ms. Liz Tsiros (Office Manager) at ltsiros@ncc.vic.edu.au. Please report positive test results to the Department of Health system or via the coronavirus hotline at 1800 675 398.
- **Household Contacts:** The Victorian Government guidance for people who are household contacts can be found online at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-contacts>. Staff and students are advised to email Ms. Liz Tsiros (Office Manager) at ltsiros@ncc.vic.edu.au if they are a household contact. Please note that household contacts are permitted onsite if they strictly follow the Victorian Government checklist.
- **Ventilation:** Northside is continuing ensure good ventilation of indoor spaces by leaving doors and windows open (except during a thunderstorm asthma warning period and aftermath) and using air purifiers appropriately.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Staff and students are encouraged to practice good personal hygiene, including covering nose and mouth when sneezing, disposing of tissues after use, coughing into one's elbow and thoroughly washing hands with soap and water (or hand sanitiser containing 70% alcohol).
- **Face Masks:** Face masks continue to be made available for staff and students who wish to wear them.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Michael Bond
Principal