



A message from Chisholm Catholic College COVID-19 – School Operating Guidelines for Baseline Settings

The information and FAQs below refer to the new School Operating Guidelines as we transition toward living with COVID-19.

When is a mask required?

While the mask mandate is now formally lifted, students must continue to wear masks where physical distancing is not possible. Students in Year 7 and above are required to wear a mask when using public transport.

Year 7 students and above who are close family contacts **MUST** wear their mask for 7 days whenever they leave their home including while at school.

What is the definition of a close contact?

- a household member of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period
- someone who has had close interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where they spent more than 4 hours with them in a single day, in a residential setting and masks were not worn
- someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Can asymptomatic close contact students return to school?

Yes. Parents must inform the school of the child's close contact status and should do so via the CEWA COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal [\[click here\]](#). This portal can also be accessed from the Chisholm Catholic College website under the COVID-19 tab. Students who return to school must follow the requirements set out by the WA Government including mask wearing (Year 7 and above) and daily RATs.

Can a close contact wearing a mask remove it if doing vigorous exercise or playing school or community sport?

If the close contact is alone and not in the presence of others then the mask may be removed. If the close contact is in the presence of others the mask must be worn.

Is it compulsory for students who are asymptomatic close contacts to attend school?

Yes; school attendance is compulsory and students should return to normal classes unless symptomatic or a positive COVID-19 result is returned.

What recording is required by the school and what evidence needs to be supplied for persons identified as close contacts?

Staff and students are encouraged to report their close contact status via the CEWA COVID-19 Self Reporting Portal. Positive RAT COVID-19 cases must be reported on the WA Health website.

Do students need to wear masks while on a bus, for example travelling to excursions?

Students in Years 7 and above (other than those with an approved exemption) are required to wear a mask while travelling on public transport, as well as school owned and chartered vehicles.

Do students who are close contacts need to take a RAT each day prior to coming to school?

Yes. Students who are close contacts must take a RAT each day before coming to school and are encouraged to note their result via the CEWA COVID-19 Self Reporting Portal. Where a student becomes symptomatic or returns a positive result, they must commence isolation protocols.

If a positive case returns to school before the WA Health recommended date of return, will the school send them home?

Yes. The parents of students who are COVID-19 positive will be immediately contacted and requested to pick up their child. The child should not return to school until they have completed their 7 day isolation period.

What school activities are now permitted?

While assemblies (year and whole school), excursions, music programs, camps, school sport programs, student work placements, etc. are now permitted, consideration of venue requirements or RAT testing may be necessary in some instances. Parents will be advised as required.

Regards,

Mr Rino Randazzo

Acting Principal