



HAMILTON SECONDARY COLLEGE

25th January 2022

Dear parent/carer

SA Health and the Department for Education has provided guidance on how to manage cases of COVID-19 in schools. The new arrangements recognise the importance of providing quality education and care for our students while minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

New contract tracing and close contact arrangements in education from 31 January 2022.

Schools will remain open if there is a case of COVID-19 under the new arrangements.

1. Classroom contacts

If a student or teacher in your child's class(es) tests positive for COVID-19, they will be deemed a classroom contact and the following will occur:

- We will notify all parents in that class of the positive case
- All students without symptoms can continue attending school. No rapid antigen testing will be required.
- If your child develops any symptoms (even mild) please keep them home from school and get a COVID-19 test.
- Please notify us immediately if your child tests positive to COVID-19 on 82758300

Our staff will also undergo 7 days of rapid antigen testing (test to stay) in the event that they are in a classroom with a student or colleague who tests positive.

The Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) advises classroom contacts should do the following to minimise risk to others, when outside of the school setting between days 1 to 14 of exposure:

- avoid high risk settings or COVID Management Plan events
- wear a surgical mask around others and outside your home
- avoid contact with vulnerable people outside of school or family
- avoid non-essential activities where possible (eg where there are lots of people, inside, in close contact)
- avoid shared spaces and maintain physical distance.

2. Students who have worked 1:1 with a COVID positive staff member

Any student who has worked 1:1 with a COVID positive staff member (more than 15mins, indoors, in close proximity and where face masks are not able to be worn) will be asked to complete 7 days of rapid antigen testing ('test to stay') each morning before attending school.

Students that test positive must not attend school.

We will provide you with the testing kits at no charge.

If you don't want your child to complete the 7-day testing, they can quarantine for 7 days.

3. Learning during quarantine

The Department for Education is developing online learning resources for students in years reception to 10 that can be completed during quarantine.

4. Students who are unwell

To continue to maintain a safe environment for both students and staff, please keep your child home if they are:

- unwell
- experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms
- any other member of the household has COVID-19
- a close contact for a person who has COVID-19 and are required to quarantine

Please notify us asap if your child/ren tests positive for COVID-19 and understand that under the current circumstances, we will ask you to pick up your child if they present flu like symptoms during the day.

Remote and on-site program

1. Remote learning trial for students in years 9, 10 and 11

To ensure that our remote learning program has a smooth start, teachers will trial a lesson with their Care Group, using Microsoft Teams as our online platform. The trial is scheduled for Wednesday 2 February at 9am, with the purpose of solving technical difficulties that may arise. Your child's Care Group teacher will telephone you on either Monday 31 or Tuesday 1 February to introduce themselves and to provide you with further information in relation to this program, including student logins and passwords for daymap.

2. Hard copy learning materials

Students who cannot access the internet from home can work from hard copy learning materials pre-prepared by staff. Parents are able to come into school to collect a package for their child. Please phone the College and let the front office know when you will be coming on site and what year level packages your child requires.

3. Student Handbook

We have uploaded our Student Handbook to our website. To access it, please click first on the **NEWS & EVENTS** from our website's menu bar, then click on **latest news**. Then scroll down on that page, where you will find the **Remote Learning Handbook 2022**.

This handbook provides detailed information about processes and procedures from 2 February that will support a successful remote learning program. Please take a particular note of processes related to student attendance, their lesson schedule, online etiquette and expectations of children of essential workers who may need to come on site. We will also continue to update you through our website, facebook and text messages.

4. On-site program for years 7, 8 and 12

Please note that students on an on-site program will:

- Start the school day at 8:35 with Care Group and will finish at the regular time of 3:15pm.
- Finish school on Wednesdays at 1:25pm. Please communicate with us if this time does not suit you due to work commitments, and we will offer your child an alternative program until 2:25pm.
- Not be permitted to leave schools grounds during the day.
- Be required to wear a mask in class
- Have minimised access to the yard for safety.
- Will not be undertaking practical activities such as physical education or cooking.

5. Year 8 Camp

Due to the current government mandates, the year 8 camp, which was originally taking place in week 3 this term, has been postponed until Term 3, Week 4 16th-17th of August, 2022.

If parents/caregivers have already paid for the camp, this payment will carry over to the new date. New camp forms will be distributed closer to the date.

6. Other activities

Please note that activities beyond the classroom such as assemblies, afterschool zoned sport or excursions will not be held. These activities are due to recommence after week 4, term 1.

Other general information

1. Canteen

The canteen will be open at recess and lunch time from 2 February. We ask where possible, that students pre-order their recess and/or lunch. This will enable the canteen manager to appropriately restock food. This is particularly important in the first couple of weeks as students continue to transition back to school.

Please pack recess and lunch for your child if you do not wish them to buy food from our canteen. Students are not permitted to go off site during the school day.

2. Masks

Please let your child know that they will be required to wear a face mask while indoors at school. We will have supplies for them to wear if they don't already have one.

3. Dropping off/picking up of children

We ask that parents/caregivers remain in their cars or outside the gates when dropping off or picking up of children.

4. Student absence (on-site and remote learning)

If your child has an approved absence, ie illness or family matter, please advise the school through the usual channels.

These new settings will be in place until the end of week 4 of term 1. We thank you for your support and ask that you continue to keep yourselves and your family safe as confirmed cases of COVID-19 unfortunately rise. Should you have any further queries, please contact the College on 82758300.

Yours sincerely



Peta Kourbelis
Principal

