



# Catholic School Guidelines

## Baseline Settings

### ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Effective Term 2

These guidelines have been developed for parents and caregivers as we transition toward living with COVID-19. If conditions change the Chief Health Officer will advise the CEWA to adjust settings.



## Definitions

For the purposes of implementing these guidelines, the following definitions apply:

- **School sites (education facilities)** include:
  - a school, including CEWA offices e.g. Leederville, Geraldton, Broome and Bunbury;
  - early learning and care, Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) and long daycare;
  - boarding premises (boarding / residential facilities).
- **Close contact:** a close contact is now defined as:
  - A household member of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period.
  - Someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period where:
    - they spent greater than 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in any 24-hour period in a residential setting (for instance a home or accommodation facility);
    - masks have been removed by both people during the period of contact.
  - Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.
  - Asymptomatic close contacts are not required to isolate but do have to follow testing and mask wearing requirements.

There is no requirement for parents to report to a school that their child has tested negative to COVID-19, but are encouraged to do so via the COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal to further support schools with their management of COVID-19.

Parents/caregivers are to inform the school if their child tests positive and must keep them home until well and free of symptoms. Parents/caregivers must also report their child's positive RAT to WA Health.



## School attendance

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) encourages all students who are well to attend school, including those with health conditions, unless COVID-19 positive.



## Educational continuity

- Schools provide work for students who need to stay home due to isolation requirements (COVID-19 positive students and symptomatic household contacts only). Schools are not required to provide work to students who are being kept at home by a parent when there is no COVID-19 positive case.



## School activities

- The following activities may take place without restriction:
  - Band, choir and orchestra rehearsals and performances
  - Whole school and year level assemblies
  - Sporting programs
  - Professional learning activities and conferences
  - Inter-school activities and workshops
  - School balls
- Excursion and offsite events can resume in accordance with venue-based requirements.
- Proof of vaccination for venue entry has been removed, excluding high risk settings.



## Camps

School camps are permitted from Term 2.

- Staff/students are required to show evidence (photo) of a negative RAT taken on the morning of the camp for their attendance to be permitted.
- Staff/students who have recently recovered from COVID-19 (within 12 weeks of the camp) are not required to undertake RAT testing.
- Student permission notices for camps must include:
  - Permission for staff to administer a RAT to any student who has symptoms or meets the close contact definition.
  - Agreement of parent/caregiver to immediately collect their child from camp should they test positive.
  - Agreement of parent/caregiver to be contactable at any time and available to take immediate responsibility for the child in the event that they cannot remain/return to the camp facility.
  - Agreement that asymptomatic students identified as close contacts while on camp self-administer a daily RAT and wear a mask.

A supply of saliva RATs should be provided and used wherever possible to allow for the child to self administer.

- If staff must assist a student with their RAT the staff member must
  - wear appropriate PPE; and
  - ensure consent for the RAT has been obtained from the child's parent/caregivers.



## School canteens

School canteens can open, and parents and community volunteers can continue to assist in school canteens.



## Health and hygiene

Arrangements to continue to reduce direct contact, enhance personal hygiene practices, and strengthen cleaning regimes in schools and care services, are to be encouraged.

Each person has a responsibility to protect themselves and others. This is achieved through the ongoing promotion of the following good hygiene principles and practices:

- staff, students and parents must stay home when sick or symptomatic.
- adults maintain physical distancing from other adults, where possible;
- avoiding unnecessary physical contact and physical greetings (e.g. handshakes, hugs);
- covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, using a flexed elbow or tissue;
- disposing of tissues appropriately;
- washing hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitiser, including prior to meal breaks; and
- posters and visible messaging regarding handwashing and cough-sneeze hygiene should be displayed.



## Masks

- Asymptomatic close contacts (in Year 7 or above 12 years of age) are required to wear a mask outside of the home at all times.
- The mask mandate no longer applies to staff and students in schools. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask should they wish.
- Masks are required on public transport, including public transport taken during the course of school activities, as well as in vehicles provided by schools.



## Parents/caregivers

Parents and caregivers are permitted on school sites and in classrooms in order to:

- Support school services (canteen/uniform shop).
- Attend both year level and whole school assemblies and special infrequent school events.
- Drop off/pick up.
- Morning reading/activities or to volunteer in classroom activities.
- Attend parent teacher conferences.



## School bus services

- Mask wearing remains in place for travel on public transport for persons aged 12 and above.
- School buses are unable to transport students when they have symptoms or if they are supposed to be isolating.