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Goornong Primary School

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Tuesday 26th April, 2022

Dear Parents,

TERM 2 COVID-19 UPDATE

I hope you and your families enjoyed a wonderful break over the school holidays. The Victorian Government has announced some important changes to COVIDSafe measures for schools that will apply from the start of Term 2.

Face masks

From 11:59 pm Friday 22 April, face masks, while recommended, are not required in any school setting. This means students in grades 3 to 6, staff and visitors in primary schools are no longer required to wear face masks. Any student or staff member who wishes to wear a mask may do so, including those who are medically at-risk.

Screening requirements

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, and have completed their 7-day isolation period, now do not need to undertake rapid antigen test (RAT) screening for 12 weeks after their release from isolation. This was previously 8 weeks.

Household contacts

Students who are household contacts of a COVID-19 case are not required to quarantine. They may return to school provided they are not symptomatic and provided they undertake rapid antigen tests (RAT) 5 times during their 7-day period. Where a student is a household contact of a positive case, parents are required to inform the school that their child is a household contact and that they will be attending school is what would have previously been their isolation period.

Students aged 8 years and above who are household contacts are required to wear face masks when indoors at school unless they have a valid exemption.

If a student household contact returns a positive RAT result, they must isolate for 7 days.

Vaccination requirements for visitors to schools

Parents, carers and other adult visitors (not performing work) are no longer required to show evidence of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccination requirements for visitors and volunteers performing work

Any visitors and volunteers that attend an education facility to perform work in close proximity to students or staff are subject to third dose vaccination requirements. Parents volunteering with activities such as morning reading, on excursions or with on-site fundraising activities would fall into this category. Our school is required to collect, record and hold vaccination information from relevant volunteers to ensure they meet these requirements. Whilst we are currently limiting the number of volunteers at our school, we ask parents to take note of this requirement for the time when we are again seeking volunteers on-site.

RAT screening program reminder

RATs will continue to be supplied for the first 4 weeks of Term 2 to support the early detection of COVID-19 in our school. A reminder that twice-a-week testing on school days is strongly recommended for both students and staff. We suggest that testing is done Monday mornings prior to school and again on Wednesday afternoons. At the end of Term 1 the school sent home RATs for weeks 1 & 2 of this term. We will be sending home RATs for weeks 3 & 4 next week. If you did not receive your test kit/s or do not wish to receive a kit, please let the school know.

Actions to take if a student or staff member tests positive

Students and staff must report a COVID-positive result to:

- The school by phone and through the [RA Test Portal](#); this is so the school can support them, record that they will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that everyone should monitor for symptoms.
- The Department of Health via the [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#) or call centre on [1800 675 398](tel:1800675398).

All students and staff who return a positive result from a rapid antigen test should also follow the latest advice at <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests>

Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, is [available online](#).

Please feel free to contact me if you require any clarification regarding the above information. Thank you for your ongoing support in following the health directives set by the Victorian Government in our school.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Cox
Principal