

COVID Update #4 - 2022

Dear St Joseph's College Community

I write to you today to provide a further update to St Joseph's College's response to the current COVID-19 situation. As you are aware the Queensland Government has now released its back-to-school plan and I want to assure all families that we are well prepared for the safe return of students on campus next Monday 7 Feb. We have reviewed this information and updated our plans for the period Monday 7 February – Friday 4 March and the details are outlined below.

Provision of RATs to Schools

The Queensland Government has confirmed that it has a quantity of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) that will be allocated to schools for use across the period 7 February to 4 March. These RATs are for use by staff and students who **develop symptoms while at school**. However, the key message remains that students and staff should not come to school if they are sick or showing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).

The process for provision of these RATs is as follows:

- If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms prior to school starting each morning, then that student or staff member is to remain at home and access their local Queensland Health [testing clinic](#) where they will be given prioritised access to a RAT test.
- If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school they are to report to Student Entrance where they will be isolated, parents / carers will be contacted to collect the student and they may be provided with a RAT to complete at home.
- Once the test has been completed at home the parent / carer is then required to report the result of the test to the College by completing this [form](#)

Management of positive COVID-19 Cases

As per Queensland Health advice St Joseph's College will communicate with our community on a regular basis regarding the number of positive COVID-19 cases reported to the College. Once notified it is important to highlight that all individuals impacted must follow [Queensland Health advice](#) in relation to isolation and testing.

St Joseph's College will continue with our hygiene and cleaning practices as per the Queensland Government's two-step precautionary clean as outlined in 'Managing COVID-19 in workplaces'. In the event of multiple COVID-19 cases, we may be required to take additional measures at the direction of (and in consultation with) the local Public Health Unit (under current plans school closure is always a last resort).

Restrictions to Activities

The back-to-school plan outlines recommendations for the first four weeks of school to minimise the amount of unnecessary movement and large gatherings in schools. This includes limitations on parents of children entering school sites, and the suspension of school camps, excursions, and large assemblies and gatherings during this period. As a result of these restrictions and limitations a number of changes have been made to our college events. Please see the table attached.



Mask Wearing

Mask wearing is compulsory for all high school students in line with the current health directive. Teachers can remove masks when they teach if they can socially distance. It is our intention to require our community to wear their masks at all times whilst at the College unless they are outside and can socially distance. This includes students being required to wear masks when seated in classes as we are not able to socially distance at all times. We believe that this not only is a common-sense approach, but it also allows for a consistent message, and it is in the best interest of both our students and staff.

Students who may have a medical exemption from wearing a mask are required to have their parents communicate with the College. We would encourage these students to consider the use of a face shield.

Return to School Arrangements:

As indicated, we are expecting all students who are feeling well to return to the College next Monday 7 February.

Over the last few weeks, we have audited our teaching spaces to ensure that there is the opportunity for increasing natural ventilation in learning spaces by opening windows and doors in addition to mechanical ventilation such as fans and air conditioners.

Any staff member, student or visitor to St Joseph's College will be required to adhere to the following:

- If you need to be on campus please wear a mask at all times.
- Not attend the College, if they display COVID-19 symptoms.
- Get tested if they display COVID-19 symptoms. If they test positive (or are a close contact as defined by Queensland Health) they will be asked to remain away from school until they are well or until the expiry of the designated isolation period. During that time students will be able to access remote learning if they are well enough to do so.
- Notify the school if they test positive to COVID-19 or if they are identified as a close contact within 2 days of attending St Joseph's College for more than a 4-hour period. Please complete this [form](#).
- Practice active hand hygiene and maintain safe social distancing.
- Visitors will be asked to check in at all reception areas, sign in using QR Codes. Visitors will be required to wear a mask at all times when on campus.

All staff, students and visitors will be asked to comply with any changes to Government directions and any access requirements stipulated by off-site venues, including other schools. Whilst there is currently no vaccination mandate for students, families are encouraged to seek medical advice for their sons regarding vaccination options if it is their preference to do so.

Return to school

Finally, I would like to highlight what a great day yesterday was. To have students back at school (even though it was online and there were some initial IT issues) it was so refreshing and energising for all our college staff. We are eagerly looking forward to next Monday.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the commitment, collaboration, and effort of staff to prepare for online learning, and in contacting our families to check-in over the last week. Once again, the St Joseph's College staff have demonstrated the ability to be agile and flexible in their response to the ever-changing landscape of education during these unprecedented times. On our community's behalf I thank our staff for their professionalism and selfless focus on what is in the best interests of our students learning, health and wellbeing.

The start to 2022 continues to be a challenging time for our community and we appreciate your patience and understanding at this time whilst we continually refine and adapt our plans for the next few weeks.

Let's create your
best future, *together.*



Week	Date	Activity/Event	Status
1		Yr 7-12 Information Evenings	Video recordings available below: Yr 8-9 Curriculum Information Video Recording Yr 10-12 Curriculum Information Video Recording
2	1 Feb	Opening Liturgy, Induction and Semester 2 Academic Awards	Postponed Senior Induction 18 March as part of Joey's Day Semester 2 Academic Awards presented in House Meetings during Week 4
	2 Feb	SJC Swimming Carnival	Postponed to 24 Feb – split event Year 10 – 12 -- 8.30 – 11.00am Year 7 – 9 -- 11.00am – 2.40pm More information to follow
3	7 Feb	Year 7-12 students return to school, on campus	
	8 Feb	College Photo Day	Continue as planned - COVID Safe Practices
	8 Feb	Academic Excellence Morning Tea	Continue as planned - COVID Safe Practices
	9 Feb – 11 Feb	Yr 7 Camp	Postponed to 1-3 June
	9 Feb	USQ University Showcase	Continue as planned - COVID Safe Practices
	9 Feb	Yr 12 Ball Dance Practice – 1:45-3:45pm	Cancelled
	10 Feb	Yr 9 Unleashing Personal Potential Presentation	Continue as planned - COVID Safe Practices
4	13 Feb	Yr 12 Ball Dance Practice – 10-12 @ Rumours	Cancelled
	14 Feb	Yr 12 Academic Care Interviews	Continue as planned – COVID Safe Practices and Teams meetings available as per email.
	15 Feb	SJC Board Meeting	Cancelled
	16 Feb	Yr 12 Ball Dance Practice – 1:45-3:45pm	Cancelled
	17 Feb	Yr 7 & New Families Welcome Liturgy and BBQ	Year 7 Welcome Liturgy – 17 Feb in Period 5. Recording available for families Year 7 BBQ rescheduled 3 June
	19 Feb	Yr 12 Inauguration Ball	Rescheduled 19 March. Further information to follow
	21 Feb	Interact Awareness – Ellie Project	Continue as planned - COVID Safe Practices
5	24 Feb	SJC Swimming Carnival	Year 10 – 12 -- 8.30 – 11.00am Year 7 – 9 -- 11.00am – 2.40pm
	25 Feb	Music Camp	Postponed. New date TBA.
	25 Feb	Yr 11/12 Tourism Excursion	Postponed. New date TBA.
	28 Feb / 1 March	Audiological Testing	Continue as planned - COVID Safe Practices
6	1 March	SJC P&F Meeting	Cancelled
	2 March	Ash Wednesday	Completed in Joey's Way groups
	2 March	Yr 12 Drama Excursion	Postponed to 4 March

Links in the document:

- COVID-19 Positive Report Form - St Joseph's College - <https://forms.office.com/r/UKvdBh58Ev>
- Year 10-12 Curriculum Information Video Recording - <https://youtu.be/xx-AfSWRedw>
- Year 8-9 Curriculum Information Video Recording - <https://youtu.be/EZhVg0hiCLA>
- COVID-19 Symptoms - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/symptoms-of-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-comparison>
- Testing Clinics – <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/exposed-to-covid/covid-testing-in-queensland#testing-centre-map>
- Queensland Health Advice and Steps if I have COVID - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/i-have-covid/first-steps-if-you-have-covid>

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