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# *Narara Valley High School*

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26<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

You will have heard the Premier's announcement of Sunday 23/01/22 outlining the plan for the return of students for the 2022 school year.

A key element of the return to school plan is the distribution and use of Rapid Antigen Tests. Schools will be distributing Rapid Antigen Tests for all staff and students prior to the commencement of the school year and as you can appreciate, this requires careful logistical planning.

The rapid antigen test (**RAT**) kits will be provided to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school. We ask that the tests are administered at home before school on the first day, and then twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

***At no time will school staff be administering the tests to students.***

Our distribution process for the first week will be on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of January. To minimise congestion and interaction of people we are allocating timeslots across the two days based on surnames. This approach may not suit all families, however we ask that you only attend in your timeslot unless an alternate time is unavoidable. If this is the case, you may attend at an alternative time. The tests will only be distributed during the following times:

Surnames starting with A-F: Friday 1pm-3pm

Surnames starting with G-L: Monday 9am-11am

Surnames starting with M-Q: Monday 11am-1pm

Surnames starting with R-Z: Monday 1pm-3pm

There will be a drive through set up in Fountains Road at the front of the school just before the turning circle. A gazebo will be set up where you will collect the kits. Parents and carers are asked to remain in their vehicles. Staff will be on hand to assist you.

If your child tests positive to Covid-19, you will need to advise the school and report it to NSW Health via the Service NSW app or the Service NSW website. Negative tests do not need to be reported.

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

**Masks are compulsory in all indoor settings at school.** No vented or cloth masks are to be worn. Students will be provided with surgical masks as a backup when needed, which they are required to wear indoors, as stated above. Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.



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## **Unwell at school**

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative and they are displaying no symptoms OR they are diagnosed as another condition such as hayfever, the student or staff member can return to school

## **Visitors on school sites and vaccinations**

- No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops and canteens, who must be fully vaccinated.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery, who must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students, who must be fully vaccinated.

All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible.

## **What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. The principal will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

**Uniform shop-** by appointment only. Please book online or ring the office during school office hours.

Full school uniform is expected and tights are not part of the uniform. Juniors have a red jumper, seniors jumpers are black. Shoes need to be enclosed black leather.

**Yondr Pouches** will need to be used. All years need to locate and bring your pouch with you to school if you are bringing a phone to school. Total no phone policy still exists. Year 7 will have pouches explained and distributed on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.

If you have questions, please contact the office or email to your child's year advisor or Deputy Principal.

Mr Geoff Fleming Years 7, 9, 11  
Mrs Samoan Forrest Years 8, 10, 12

Keep checking this site for updates.

Please stay safe and well.

Andrew Skehan  
**PRINCIPAL**