

**St Michael’s Collegiate School – Term 2 2022 COVID-19 Plan Weeks 9 and 10**

The Tasmanian Government has established safety guidelines for all schools for Term 2 2022 which outline the most important steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include a strong emphasis on:

* Vaccination for all eligible adults
* Use of face masks
* Robust COVID-19 testing
* Practicing good hygiene
* Targeted quarantine practices
* Communication between school and home
* Events and co-curricular activities
* Wellbeing of students and staff

Further information on the Tasmanian COVID Safety in Schools Plan can be found [here](https://publicdocumentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/library/COVID19%20Documents/OVERVIEW-Term-2-COVID-safe-schools-plan.pdf).

**Management of COVID-19 at St Michael’s Collegiate School**

At St Michael’s Collegiate we will be following these guidelines to keep our School community safe, which is consistent with the compassionate leadership we teach our students.

**Our COVID-19 Management Plan for Term 2 will continue to be reviewed and revised in accordance with Tasmanian State Government advice – updates will be shared with our community as changes occur.**

**Vaccination for All Eligible Adults**

After a consultation period in December 2021 and January 2022, Collegiate adopted a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for all all employees, contractors and volunteers. As per the policy, medical exemptions for vaccinations apply and evidence must be shared with the Deputy Principal for Staff and Volunteers and the Campus Manager for Contractors.

**Use of Face Masks**

The wearing of masks for all students, staff and visitors when indoors is optional; however, face masks will be required to be worn by students 12 years and older and all adults who are a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case.

**Robust COVID-19 Testing**

The School will continue to provide students and staff with access to Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs), to be used at home, or in the Boarding House, if symptomatic; students and staff should maintain a supply of two RATs at all times. These should be collected from the Reception at each campus.

Symptomatic individuals are also eligible to receive free RATs from the Tasmanian Government; details on requesting a RAT and reporting your result can be found [here](https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/).

**Practicing Good Hygiene**

To help control the spread of COVID-19, these protocols should be observed:

* Wash and dry your hands regularly and properly.
* Wash and dry hands after removing your mask.
* Always wash and dry hands thoroughly before eating.
* Use hand sanitiser as required.

At school

* There will continue to be hand sanitiser in classrooms and break-out spaces.
* Posters placed around the campuses will advertise hand washing.
* Café 1892 and the Middle School Canteen will now be open for some over-the-counter purchases at recess and lunch, however these will be limited. Students will need to pay for their purchases using their Student ID Card linked to their Flexischools account. We strongly encourage families to continue pre-ordering food through Flexischools. Online ordering can be completed through Flexischools, which we have had available since mid-2020. Information regarding Flexischools can be found [here](https://www.flexischools.com.au/parents). Hot drinks will again be available from Café 1892 during morning tea or lunch.
* Students will be encouraged to be fully self-sufficient in terms of food and water / drink, bringing all they need for the day from home.
* Additional microwaves and sandwich toasters will be available for students; hot water will remain available for Senior School students.
* There is to be no sharing or swapping of food or drink bottles.
* Drinking fountains which require the mouth to be near a spout will be turned off. Water fountains for re-filling water bottles will be available.

Ventilation

A School-wide audit of ventilation in all learning spaces was carried out during Semester 2 2021 and work to improve ventilation has been completed over the summer break. Actions to improve ventilation in learning spaces are opening windows and doors, weather permitting, and periodically moving classes outside. Additionally, we have installed an air purifier for every classroom at the Junior, Middle and Senior campus, as well as units for Boarding and staff rooms (90 units in total). We utilised the same supplier and air purifiers that the Tasmanian Department of Education has sourced.

Assemblies, House Meetings and Chapel Services will be conducted in-person with year-level mixing reduced.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The School has a undertaken additional COVID cleaning protocols since the pandemic commenced in 2020; these will be maintained throughout 2022 with a focus on high-touch surfaces.

Respiratory Etiquette

Students and staff will be reminded of good respiratory etiquette, and posters and other visual information will be displayed. In general, this will include:

If you cough or sneeze, you should:

* Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue rather than your hands.
* If there are no tissues available, cover your nose and mouth with your upper arm rather than your hands.
* Dispose of used tissues in the nearest bin.
* Wash your hands immediately afterwards or after touching used tissues.

**Targeted Quarantine Practices**

**Anyone who has a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss or change in sense of taste or smell, however mild, is symptomatic and is not permitted to enter any Collegiate campus. Any day student, staff member or visitor who becomes symptomatic during the school day will be required to leave campus as soon as possible. Boarders who become symptomatic during the school day will report to Reception and the Director of Boarding / Deputy Director of Boarding will be alerted.**

During periods of high COVID-19 case numbers, all students, staff, contractors and visitors who stay longer than 15-minutes may be required to attend a health screening station on each campus each day upon arrival to have their temperature taken. In the instance that high case numbers are limited to certain groups within the Collegiate community, temperature checks may be limited to these groups, e.g. a single year level. If their temperature is less than 37.5oC they may proceed to enter the School.

Students who are symptomatic or test positive will quarantine at home or in the Boarding House (interstate and international students) in accordance with Public Health requirements. Students who are quarantining will be able to access learning material through myCollegiate or via other information provided by the School for their classes.

Staff who are symptomatic or test positive will quarantine at home in accordance Public Health requirements. Staff who are unwell will not be expected to teach from home; in these instances, continuity of learning will be managed by either adhering to instructions provided by the class teacher or a substitute teacher.

Quarantine requirements for staff will be inaccordance with Public Health requirements.  Staff who are unwell will not be expected to work from home. For classes, in these instances, continuity of learning will be managed by either adhering to instructions provided by the class teacher or a substitute teacher.

Tasmanians who are close contacts do not need to quarantine for seven days. Close contacts must take a daily RAT, wear a face mask when outside of the home and indoor spaces. Staff must advise their Head of School of their close contact status.

We are adhering to the Tasmanian Department of Public Health guidelines for schools regarding outbreaks. The School will alert Public Health and follow their advice where there are concerns such as:

* when a significant transmission event has occurred e.g. at a camp;
* where there is an increasing number of cases e.g. 20-30% of a cohort are active cases;
* when cases in staff are such that the School is unable to meet operational requirements.

A Boarding outbreak is defined as two or more cases in students or staff within the Boarding House. There will be daily monitoring of student symptoms in the Boarding House and use of RATs if symptoms are present. There is a designated area in the Boarding House for interstate and international students to isolate.

**Communication between School and Home**

Student and staff positive COVID-19 cases must be reported through the [School’s online COVID-19 reporting system](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GR58Nc8jwEqHIx9fayhUARx74m6pbd9Ihar7kgfBesxUMERUQ1gyVzFGQjRYVkJTMElTRkJIT01SMiQlQCN0PWcu) as soon as possible after the positive test results is received. A QR code on each RAT will link to the Collegiate COVID-19 Safety webpage where results can be submitted and relevant information and policies can be accessed.

In place of daily email notifications, COVID case information for each year group will continue to be updated each weekday during term-time on the School’s [COVID-19 Safety website](https://collegiate.tas.edu.au/covid-safety/).

**Events and Co-Curricular Activities**

* Some on-campus meetings and events for parents and carers, involving specific year levels or year level combinations which reflect common interactions at school / socially, will proceed; information will be shared through the relevant Parent Portal and/or email.

Co-Curricular Activities

The co-curricular program is an essential aspect of the holistic education of our students, all co-curricular activities will proceed in a COVID-Safe manner.

**Wellbeing of Students and Staff**

The wellbeing of students will be supported by:

* Each Mentor / Year Level Coordinator monitoring students’ wellbeing and determining the required supports to meet individual needs.
* Our Chaplains, Educational Counsellor and Psychologist who will continue to provide both face-to-face and online support, for students learning on campus and from home as required, and
* MyCollegiate and SchoolTV where students and families will be able to access Wellbeing resources.

The wellbeing of staff will be supported by:

* School Management providing clear guidance and supports for teaching and learning in different scenarios, with workload principles factored in.
* Workforce planning to ensure we can continue to keep learners safe and learning throughout COVID-related staff shortages.
* School Management will communicate clearly with staff on expectations, processes, planning and resources related to COVID, including the resources available to support student learning and wellbeing.
* School Management will communicate leave available to support all staff through COVID-related absences, and will consistently promote staff mental health and wellbeing, with EAP support available.

**Learning from Home Capability**

During the extended 2020 lockdown and the brief 3-day lockdown last year, we successfully supported learning from home for our students and we are confident that we can meet the academic and pastoral care needs of our students again in 2022 should learning from home be required for individual students / staff quarantining, or if circumstances necessitated a school-wide approach.

**Updated 22 June 2022.**