

Friday 28 January 2022

Dear Parents

### ***Regent College COVID19 Safety Framework***

All major decisions about COVID19 safety requirements in our school and across the education sector, are directed by the WA State Government. As an independent school we are required to adhere to health directives. This year, we anticipate health advice to schools to be adjusted on an ongoing basis, according to the incidence and prevalence of COVID19 in our community. Therefore, we ask for your patience and understanding, as we endeavour to make our learning environments as safe as possible. We hope that during this time, we can maintain effective communication and can promote kindness within our community.

#### Our aims

- 1) Reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases (not just COVID19) in the classroom:
  - a) Compliance with recommended air ventilation guidelines within the classroom
  - b) Focus on high levels of hand (and general) hygiene and cleaning of surfaces
  - c) Students must remain at home when unwell
  - d) Masks may be used by students, but this is currently optional for primary aged students.
- 2) Reduce the risk of COVID19 transmission within the school community, protecting students and staff:
  - a) Mandatory COVID19 vaccination for staff according to requirements set by Department of Health
  - b) Parents volunteering at the school or working in an unpaid capacity more than one day per week, require evidence of COVID19 vaccination
  - c) Delayed start of non-essential programmes (external providers)
  - d) Encouragement of vaccination of students
  - e) Families are asked to leave the school grounds promptly at the end of the school day, ideally by 3:10pm
  - f) All parents are encouraged to wear a mask when on school grounds (surgical or P2/N95 preferred over cloth masks). <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-13/what-is-best-face-mask-for-COVID19-19/100751758>.
  - g) All parents entering school grounds should sign-in using the SafeWA app (QR code) or written sign-in sheet
- 3) Continue our core business as uninterrupted as possible; maintaining an interesting and supportive learning environment for students.

## First week of school

Social distancing remains central to our COVID19 response. Thank you for being mindful of this at the beginning of term.

To reduce the numbers of people on the school grounds, parents of all students (but particularly Years 3-6) are encouraged to utilise Kiss and Drive for drop off/pick up.

**Year 2 students** (both classes with bags) should gather at a meeting point under the hall from 8:20am every day during Week one. Teachers will chaperone students to classes following morning bell. Year 2 students dropped off at Kiss and Drive will be taken to this area by a staff member.

## Student sickness

**If your child is unwell, please don't send them to school.**

The symptoms of the COVID19 infection (caused by the coronavirus SARS-Cov-2) are mainly respiratory in nature (for example, cough or sore throat), however it is possible to have subtle and non-specific symptoms, such as headache or fatigue only. Diarrhoea is also a possible symptom of COVID19 particularly for children.

This makes it very challenging in the school context to determine if a student's symptoms are concerning for COVID19.

**If your child presents as unwell, the following procedure will be implemented:**

- The student will be escorted to the First Aid area (Administration)
- Parents will be promptly contacted, to gain consent for wearing a mask while they are waiting to be collected
- Student cannot remain at school with symptoms.

We ask that you seek medical review with your GP prior to your child returning to school unless the illness is clearly not related to an infectious disease. Students who have any respiratory symptoms should have a COVID19 test before returning to school. As rapid antigen tests become more available to the Western Australian community, this may offer a convenient testing option.

COVID19 testing clinics can be found through the HealthyWA website. Please note that private clinics require a pathology request form from your GP before this test can be undertaken. Hospital testing clinics do not need a request form.

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/COVIDclinics>

In addition, there are Respiratory Clinics which are funded by the Australian Government. There is a Victoria Park Respiratory Clinic which may be a convenient option for you. <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/coronavirus-COVID19-19-gp-respiratory-clinics>.

If your child has a positive COVID19 test (PCR or rapid antigen testing), please contact us as soon as practical. We would also appreciate knowing if your child is considered a close contact. We welcome your email out of hours.

If a student or staff member is confirmed as having COVID19 infection, we will be guided by the Chief Health Officer about who is regarded as a close contact. Potentially, the class or whole school may be required to self-isolate. In this scenario, Distance Learning would be engaged.

### Medically vulnerable students

We fully support initiatives to protect medically vulnerable students in our community. Please keep general medical information updated on Parent Lounge. In addition to this, please notify Administration if your child has a medical condition which places them at risk of severe COVID19 infection. This information will be used to provide additional support as per our COVID19 plan. Please note, health action plans should be updated and provided separately. If your child cannot attend school because they, or a family member, have an immune compromised medical condition, speak to their teacher or contact administration.

Email: [admin@regentcollege.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@regentcollege.wa.edu.au)

Subject: Medically Vulnerable Student COVID19 – First name, Surname, Class

### Air Ventilation

Anticipating the focus on HEPA air filtration and CO2 monitoring, we have ordered portable air filtration units for all classrooms at Regent College. This has been enabled through the generous support of the Parent Collective. We look forward to their delivery.

For your information

<https://theconversation.com/we-should-install-air-purifiers-with-hepa-filters-in-every-classroom-it-could-help-with-COVID19-bushfire-smoke-and-asthma-166332>

### Parental choice about vaccination

We acknowledge that vaccination can be a divisive issue and there is a broad range of thoughts and feelings about the COVID19 pandemic. We encourage parents and children to

be vaccinated consistent with recommended health advice. There is no current requirement for children to be vaccinated against COVID19 to attend primary school. Students will not be vaccinated at Regent College or sent offsite for vaccination without expressed parent consent, under any circumstances.

Additionally, parents/carers **are not required** to be vaccinated when:

- dropping off or picking up their child from school;
- attending school grounds including the Administration building or Uniform Shop
- volunteering at school on an ad hoc basis (less than once per week).

### Refurbishment project

During the Christmas break, the College commenced a Pre-primary classroom and canteen refurbishment project. This sizeable undertaking has necessitated temporary relocation of the 2022 Pre-primary classes during Semester 1 (Term 1 and 2).

Parents of Pre-primary students should refer to the recently distributed 'Your A-Z GUIDE TO TERM 1 2022' for temporary classroom locations.

The footprint of the refurbishment project has been fenced off and is inaccessible from within the College, it is a separate worksite. The COVID19 requirements associated with the project have been met.

### Further supports

National Coronavirus Helpline

<https://www.health.gov.au/contacts/national-coronavirus-helpline>

Mental health support during the pandemic

<https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au>

<https://thiswayup.org.au/COVID19-19/>

WA Government COVID19 Information

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

Kind regards

Derek Nicholls. Principal