



22nd July 2022

TO: Parents and Carers

RE: Term 3 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I extend a warm welcome to new students and families joining our College community in Term 3. We look forward to connecting with you onsite at Northside. Welcome back to existing students and families. We continue to pray our College community can FLOURISH in the semester ahead.

College Response to the Coronavirus

COVID-19 continues to impact our community at this time. Northside Christian College is continuing to implement a COVIDSafe Plan and a range of additional strategies to assist in maintaining a safe learning environment for our College community.

Below are some things you need to know as we embark on a new term:

- It is strongly recommended by the Department of Health that face masks are worn in indoor settings, with face masks mandatory for those aged 8 and over who are household contacts and attending school. This is because the wearing of masks is effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19.
- It is the College's expectation that, through to the end of winter, students in Year 4 and over and all staff will wear masks when in class, noting that exceptions to the recommendation apply to teaching circumstances when clear communication or when a particular activity requires the removal of a mask. Northside Christian College is replicating the guidance that has been provided to Victorian Government Schools. The Department of Education and Training has advised that schools are not required or expected to sanction students or staff who do not meet this expectation but are asked to communicate this expectation to the whole school community and seek their support for this collective effort.
- Masks are not required to be worn outdoors but can be worn when physical distancing is not possible. This expectation should not constrain student participation in the full range of school activities, including music, sport and performances.
- Everyone over 8 years old must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis, or rideshare vehicles unless a lawful exception applies.
- Windows and doors will be left open as much as possible in classrooms to ensure clean air is circulated through rooms at all times.
- The College has air purifier units and carbon dioxide monitors in many learning spaces.
- Excursions and camps will take place with additional COVIDSafe measures in place.
- The College will carefully consider the necessity of using shared equipment at this time. If used, strict hand hygiene protocols will be followed before and after use. The risks may be further minimised with staff wiping down items where appropriate.
- It is recommended that rapid antigen tests are used by students and staff when symptomatic. Household contacts are required to test negative using a rapid antigen test on at least 5 out of 7 day period if they are attending or working at a school onsite. Students and staff will complete the tests at home and must report any positive test results to the College by emailing Ms. Liz Tsiros (Office Manager) at ltsiros@ncc.vic.edu.au. Please contact Reception if you need to pick up a rapid antigen test.



- If a staff member or student has recovered from COVID-19, they are not required to get tested or isolate/quarantine if re-exposed to a case within 4 weeks of ending their isolation period.
- Students and staff who report a COVID positive result must isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
- If a student receives a positive test result at any time, they must also report this through the Department of Health system or via the coronavirus hotline at 1800 675 398. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests#report-a-positive-result-on-a-rapid-antigen-test>.
- Students are requested to refrain from returning to school if they remain symptomatic unless it is known that their symptoms are caused by an underlying health condition or medication.
- If a student is a household contact of a positive case and wants to continue learning onsite, the school must be informed by the parent or carer. If a student is aged 8 and above they will be required to wear a mask indoors. They will also need to undertake at least five negative rapid tests at home over the seven days that would previously have been the self-quarantine period. For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-contacts>.
- Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning.
 - Prep students will be given instructions via SEQTA for some written and hands-on activities in the event of isolation. These activities will reflect the learning taking place in class for English, Maths, and Inquiry.
 - Students from Year 1 to 6 will be required to complete their weekly homework tasks on MyEdOnline. Students will also be provided instructions via direct message from their teacher detailing a writing task and a list of pages from their PRIME Mathematics, Soundwaves, FRIENDZY, and Handwriting books to complete. When students return to school, students will need to show their work to their teacher. Each night, the classroom teacher will send home the above-mentioned books (four in total) to ensure students have them at home in the event.
 - Learning resources for students in Years 7 – 12 will be published on Schoology on the relevant subject pages. Commencing Week 1, additional support will be provided to Unit 3/4 students who are isolating or in quarantine, including the provision of Zoom sessions.
 - Students in Unit 3/4 classes who are isolating for extended periods of time, but who are still well enough to do schoolwork, may contact their teachers directly and request to be 'Zoomed in' to lessons.
- As you may be aware, the Victorian Government has recently decided to remove mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements for staff in schools. After careful consideration, the College has recently decided to welcome unvaccinated staff (including volunteers) back to the College, subject to a number of additional measures to safeguard the health and safety of our students and staff. Additional information will be provided to our College community about the measures which the College is taking to ensure that it limits the risk of COVID-19 transmission and prioritises the health and safety of students and staff going forward.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Michael Bond
Principal

