



Mel Maria Catholic Primary School

"Excellence in Catholic Education"

TESTING AND ISOLATION PROTOCOLS

Friday 11 March

Very high caseload protocols allow schools to safely continue essential operations and ensure students can attend school to learn and thrive in the best educational setting.

Schools work closely with WA Health to identify and contact staff and families of children identified as close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Staff, students, parents/carers and visitors must not attend school if they are unwell or test positive to COVID-19. Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms is encouraged to take a PCR test or a RAT.

Close Contacts

Staff and students identified as close contacts are:

- o contacted by their school/ WA Health that they are a close contact
- o directed to get tested and isolate as per the COVID-19 testing and isolation guide

Under very high caseload, specific settings apply to schools. This includes the ability for some asymptomatic close contacts to return to school to work or study.

Mel Maria Catholic Primary School	COVID Protocol as of 11 March 2022
<p>Staff and students - <u>Confirmed positive case</u></p>	<p>Positive Case When a student or staff member is confirmed as a positive case, they isolate as per the COVID-19 testing and isolation guide. The student (parent)/staff member report their case to their school to allow the principal to identify any close contacts.</p> <p>What to do? Isolate for a minimum of 7 full days; if symptoms still present, continue isolating until symptoms clear; or if no symptoms after Day 7, leave isolation.</p> <p>No exit testing or clearance is required to return to school once they have left isolation and have no symptoms</p>
<p>What do I do if I am a Close Contact?</p>	<p>The following information is available about what to do, depending on whether you have symptoms or not. Given WA's high caseload environment, do not wait to be contacted by WA Health. Act quickly and follow advice in the testing and isolation guide if you know you are a close contact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are a close contact of a positive case, you must isolate for seven days (<i>except critical workers – refer to next page</i>) • If anyone in your household is a positive case, you are a close contact and must isolate for seven days • If you have been in contact with someone who is a close contact, you do not have to isolate. <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto;">Continued next page</div>

What do I do if I am a Close Contact?

What are the exceptions?

- Critical workers
- Children who attend School (kindergarten to year 12), early childhood education, and childcare
- Anyone who has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 8 weeks, who does not have symptoms and is not immunocompromised.

Close contacts included in the exceptions listed above, must still isolate when not at work or at school, early childhood education, or childcare.

Schools and Childhood Education

If you are a parent and:

- A child or dependent in your household has tested positive for COVID-19, you are a close contact and must isolate
- A child or dependent in your household is a close contact, you do not need to isolate

If you are a student or a child who attends school, and you are:

- A close contact and symptomatic, you must isolate
- A close contact of a positive COVID-19 case who lives with you, you must isolate, regardless of whether you are symptomatic
- A close contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside the home, you can attend school, as long as you are asymptomatic

Close Contacts Students can continue to attend school

Unless they are a household contact, students identified as close contacts without symptoms (asymptomatic) can continue to:

- attend school
- attend before and after school care
- attend sporting or cultural training, practice, or events at school and held immediately before or after school
- travel between the student's usual place of residence and their school

They must continue to follow other requirements as a close contact, including:

- a PCR test or a RAT on Day 1, or as soon as possible
- a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7
- isolating at all other times until their 7-day isolation has passed.

Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:

- **if positive** – follow confirmed positive case guideline. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister.
- **if negative** – no further action required.

When students return to school, principals are not required to confirm any evidence of testing and/or a negative test result.

These arrangements don't apply if the student is a household close contact (for example, their family member is confirmed positive). If this is the case, they may not attend school and must isolate at home for 7 days.

<p>Students - Asymptomatic Of a <u>household close contact</u></p>	<p>Students that are a <u>close household contact of a confirmed case</u> are <u>unable to attend school</u>. They must quarantine for a full 7 days from the time of the positive case's test; and take a PCR test or a RAT on Day 1 or as soon as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If RAT positive – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guideline • If negative PCR or RAT, continue to quarantine. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister <p>Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If positive – follow confirmed positive case guideline. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister. • If negative – and no new household members have tested positive – quarantine ends after Day 7 and monitor for symptoms. <p>When students return to school, Principals are not required to confirm any evidence of testing and/or a negative test result.</p> <p>If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for a symptomatic close contact.</p>
<p>Staff without a critical worker exemption Asymptomatic Close Contact</p>	<p>Staff that are a <u>close household contact of a confirmed case</u> are <u>unable to attend school</u>. They must quarantine for a full 7 days from the time of the positive case's test; and take a PCR test or a RAT on Day 1 or as soon as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If RAT positive – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guideline • If negative PCR or RAT, continue to quarantine. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister <p>Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If positive – follow confirmed positive case guideline. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister. • If negative – and no new household members have tested positive – quarantine ends after Day 7 and monitor for symptoms. <p>When students return to school, Principals are not required to confirm any evidence of testing and/or a negative test result.</p> <p>If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for a symptomatic close contact.</p>

<p>Staff - Critical worker - Asymptomatic close contact</p>	<p>Continue to work*.</p> <p>Take daily RAT for 7 days. Isolate when not at work, work in a surgical mask, travel to and from work alone, if possible.</p> <p>Note: If symptoms develop, leave school to isolate and take a RAT or PCR test. Follow the protocol for symptomatic close contacts.</p> <p><i>*Critical workers who are close contacts should only continue to work if the school is unable to identify relief staff and in mutual agreement with the critical worker.</i></p>
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Mel Maria Leadership Team