



## **Update to Department of Education Close Contact Rules**

Dear parents and carers,

In Term 2 2022, our school will operate with a number of COVID-smart measures that have been developed with NSW Health to minimise transmission and keep schools open.

These key measures include:

- rapid antigen testing (RAT) of students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms or are identified as close contacts
- vaccinations
- maximising ventilation
- encouraging regular hand washing and continuing enhanced cleaning of schools
- assessing risk and applying appropriate safeguards across activities and events
- learning from home where face-to-face learning is not possible.

In certain circumstances NSW Health and the Department of Education may advise that certain COVID-smart measures be temporarily reintroduced at our school. I will work with Health and the department and provide further details of any changes to COVID-smart measures at our school when required.

### **Close contacts attending school**

The announcement to ease the isolation requirements for close contacts was made on 20 April 2022. This will enable students and staff who are close contacts and have no symptoms to continue to attend school if they follow guidelines agreed with NSW Health.

## **PARTNERS IN LEARNING**

Oran Park High School  
1 Podium Way, Oran Park, NSW 2570  
T: 02 4634 7700 E: [oranpark-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:oranpark-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
NSW Department of Education  
[oranpark-h.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://oranpark-h.schools.nsw.gov.au)

Close contacts will not be permitted to enter an SSP or support unit (including Assisted School Travel Program) and will be supported to continue learning or working from home where possible.

Close contacts attending school will need to adhere to the following in addition to the [NSW Health guidelines](#)[External link](#):

- They must notify the school and their outside of school hours care (OOSHC) provider if they are intending to return under this provision.
- They should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days.
- They (if in a secondary school setting) must wear a mask indoors except when eating or exercising.
- No student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.
- No apprentices, trainees or students on placement or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to attend settings identified as high risk by NSW Health (healthcare, aged care, disability care or correctional facilities)
- Any visitor to a school site who is a close contact is required to advise the school that they are a close contact before they come on site. These visitors should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result before attending. They must also wear a mask indoors at all times. Schools should consider if the visit can be conducted virtually.

The department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing case management team will continue to work with schools around temporary use of additional COVID- smart measures for short periods of time based on localised risk assessments.

Students and staff at greater risk of serious illness, if they were to contract COVID-19, should speak with their health care professional to review their health support plan or COVID-19 action plan and speak with the school about any local considerations.

## **Testing**

Remember: Staff and students cannot attend school if they are showing any symptoms of Covid 19.

If symptoms occur at any time, your child should not attend school and should undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT).

Additional delivery of RATs will be provided for students and staff who are identified as close contacts and are returning to school.

All students and staff will receive 1 multipack of RAT kits within the first three weeks of Term 2. The RAT kits can be used for symptomatic testing or for daily testing as part of the close contact requirements. Note that students and staff in SSPs or support classes or who utilise assisted transport who are identified as close contacts must not attend school and learn from home.

Regards,

**Brad Mitchell**

**Principal**