



Emmanuel Catholic College

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Dear Parents and Guardians

Further to my correspondence last week, I indicated I would update you on how the changes to COVID-19 restrictions would impact school operations. As you would no doubt be aware, earlier this week further changes were announced and these details, in relation to schools, are still yet to be fully clarified.

MASKS

Whilst the easing of restrictions from 12.01 am, Friday 29 April, will see the removal of mandatory mask wearing in most settings, clarification from CEWA about the wearing of masks in a school context is scheduled for Friday morning, after which I will inform the community of the outcome. I do believe that we acknowledge that whilst the COVID-19 restrictions ease, the health implications of Covid-19 remain highly significant and we still need to take responsibility in protecting our own health and that of others. As such I would strongly recommend that tomorrow, staff, students and parents continue to wear masks whilst on school grounds.

CLOSE CONTACTS AND SELF REPORTING

The Premier announced on 13 April 2022 that the Western Australian close contact definition will now align with the National Cabinet's definition.

This means that a close contact is now defined as:

- a family or household member of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period;
- someone who has had close interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where they spent more than 4 hours with them in a single day, in a residential setting, including a boarding facility, where masks have not been worn; or
- someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Schools are no longer considered close contact venues. A child who attends class with a peer who later tests positive to COVID-19 will no longer be identified as a close contact.

Any child who becomes symptomatic should stay home and be tested for COVID-19. Please continue to refer to healthywa.wa.gov.au for information on close contact definitions, testing and isolation requirements.

Any positive COVID-19 result should be reported on the school's COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal and positive COVID-19 RAT results must also be reported on the [WA Health RAT Register](#), as is required by the WA Government.

SCHOOL CAMPS

The easing of restrictions will mean more of our school activities can resume this term, including school camps. The College is currently planning to reinstate camps where viable, in line with the new requirements. We will provide more information on the requirements and additional COVID-19 considerations for each activity as they arise on the school calendar.

Once again, I thank the College community for their ongoing support and look forward to an extremely positive Term ahead.

Regards



Mr Paul Watson
Principal

