



Lake Joondalup Baptist College

Dear Parents and Carers

We were so pleased to welcome our students back as they returned this week for Term 3, and with how the term has started. Our students are the heartbeat of our College.

I am writing with an attached cross school sector letter from the three heads of the school systems in Western Australia with their recommendations to all school students, parents and staff in Western Australia as the rising COVID-19 infection and new sub-variants emerge. This letter encourages staff and students to wear a mask indoors. While this is not mandated, it is strongly encouraged to prevent higher levels of reinfection. This is endorsed by the College.

Most operating guidelines remain in place which has allowed minimal disruption to learning, events and cocurricular activities this term.

Please continue to report positive tests, both RAT and/or PCR on the College portal tab using the form on SEQTA Engage: [COVID Declaration Form](#)

The College will continue to publish daily case and attendance statistics on the College Portal. To assist with greater accuracy, this information will now be published for the previous day's tally by mid-morning.

Please also continue to report close contacts via the form: [COVID Declaration Form](#)

A **close contact** is defined as:

- a household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period
- someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where they spent greater than 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in a residential setting in any 24-hour period, (i.e. a home, accommodation facility) where masks have been removed by both people during the period of contact
- someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Asymptomatic close contacts are not required to isolate but do have to follow testing and mask wearing requirements. Refer to the [WA Government](#) information on close contacts. If a person has recovered from COVID-19, they will not be identified as a close contact for **four weeks**, which is a change from the previous 12 weeks.

I will continue to update you through these changes and details of when the 20 additional RATs arrive. We look forward to ensuring the school continues to operate with minimal interruption to learning and normal school activities.

Thank you again for your support of the College. As always, I am thankful for our community who continue to support one another. This has characterised our College community throughout this pandemic and I have no doubt will be something we will reflect on proudly into our shared positive future.

Yours sincerely

Paul Sonneman-Smith
College Principal

22 July 2022

The Lake Joondalup Baptist College Inc - a ministry of the Lake Joondalup Baptist Church





Department of
Education



Dear parents and carers

Throughout the pandemic, Western Australian public, Catholic and Independent schools have worked together to provide COVID-safe measures across our schools to help keep our students, staff and community safe.

As Western Australian COVID-19 infections are rising and new sub-variants are leading to reinfections for people who have already had COVID-19, we are asking for your support to ensure we keep our schools open and minimise disruption to student learning.

It is vital we continue to keep ourselves and our school community safe.

As endorsed by National Cabinet as part of a nationally consistent approach, wearing masks indoors is strongly encouraged and we fully support this across our three school systems. We ask that your child wears a mask to school to keep our schools as safe as possible. Staff have also been strongly encouraged to wear a mask while at school.

We ask for your support to please explain to your child the importance of wearing a mask to reduce the risk of transmission in schools and the community.

You can support your school community to be COVID-19 safe by:

- wearing a mask indoors when visiting the school
- ensuring your family stays up-to-date with COVID-19 and flu vaccines
- testing your child for COVID-19 if they have symptoms or are a household close contact
- keeping your child home if they are unwell
- maintaining good hand hygiene.

To further support face-to-face learning and minimise disruption to students' schooling, the WA Government will again be providing 20 free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for each student. Your school will be able to provide you with further information in the coming weeks on how you can collect these once they receive their allocation.

Testing for COVID-19 remains an important step in keeping our more vulnerable community members safe. If your child is a close contact and does not have symptoms, they must return daily negative RATs to leave isolation and attend school, and must also wear a mask when outside their home (usual exemptions apply), as per the [testing and isolation protocols](#). Close contacts who have symptoms should not attend school.

For more information on testing and isolation requirements, go to the [HealthyWA website](#).

Thank you for your continued efforts in working together to keeping all Western Australian schools COVID-19 safe.

Kind regards

Jim Bell

Acting Director General
Department of Education

Dr Debra Sayce

Executive Director
Catholic Education
Western Australia

Valerie Gould

Executive Director
Association of Independent Schools
Western Australia

20 July 2022