



Rosebank Public School

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Tuesday 1st February 2022

Welcome to a new school year, an exciting time as our students start or return to our school for 2022. I want to share how we are building on our COVID-19 experiences over the last 2 years and continuing to safeguard our students and school community while keeping our school open, where we know, best learning happens.

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-19 with the Smart Measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmission at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These Key Measures Include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits which will be provided to all families to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and students in Year 7 and above and strongly recommended for all primary students. Masks can be provided by the school for students.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come onto a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- As far as practicable, students will be kept in their year groups or class cohorts on school grounds.
- We will continue to use hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.

Rapid Antigen Tests

We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1. We are encouraging families to test your children twice a week, for the **first two weeks of school**, on a Monday and a Wednesday.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. **Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.**

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) External [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

Please Note:

- **School staff will not be administering rapid antigen tests to students.**
- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 4 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school.
- If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT test, they need to:
Record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
Notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible
Follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days.
Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

Students Unwell at School

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.

If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative, the student or staff member can return to school.

What Happens When a Student or Staff Member Tests Positive for COVID-19?

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

It may mean classes are combined K-6 or students will have another teacher on the class.

Use of Surgical Masks

All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear surgical masks indoors. No vented or cloth masks should be worn. If required, surgical masks will be available at school.

School students will be provided with surgical masks when needed.

Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising, or playing a musical instrument.

For more information, refer to [Face masks in NSW External link](#).

Visitors on School Sites and Vaccinations

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- Visitors supporting school operations (canteen duty) and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students must be fully vaccinated.
- All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible.

- We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) to book an appointment near you.

Potential Learning from Home Arrangements

- If face-to-face learning is not possible, our school will be supported to start home learning through digital learning packages for short periods.
- Online learning and lessons have been developed by the NSW DoE and will be shared online.
- Schools will have ongoing support for learning from home activities if required, and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning.

Other Key Measures

Ventilation

We will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines that natural ventilation is the most effective measure so we will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows.

This approach is strongly supported by expert advice. Where natural ventilation is not sufficient, mechanical ventilation and/or air purification will be used, and we will continue to use outdoor settings where possible.

Air purifiers have been provided to schools as a supplementary measure to support common areas in schools and can be deployed at the principal's discretion. These purifiers could be located in areas where high levels of student and staff mixing occurs, such as staffrooms, internal canteens, student centres and music rooms.

Cleaning

We continue to have enhanced cleaning focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas.

Physical Distancing

We will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and maintain 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us either via phone or email.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing our students back at Rosebank Public School for a fantastic 2022 school year.

Regards,

[Juanita Thomson](#)
Principal Rosebank Public School

[Oliver Pesca](#)
Classroom Teacher