



8 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Before reading this letter, please note this letter serves to provide information to the parents/carers in the St John's School Community. It is precautionary in nature. We currently do not have any confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the school community.

On Friday afternoon, 4 March 2022, the Department of Health (WA Health) provided updated advice in relation to quarantine requirements for parents and family members of students deemed to be close contacts.

Effective immediately, parents and family members are no longer required to quarantine with a child who has been identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case. This advice also applies retrospectively to any parents and family members who are currently in quarantine, subject to them adhering to all of the WA Health advice (attached).

One parent or carer may still need to miss work or work from home to care for their child while in quarantine. The rest of the household, including brothers and sisters, who have not been identified as close contacts, can attend work or school.

The household should adhere to the recommendations for careful symptom monitoring and other precautions noted in the attached information provided by WA Health.

The close contact must still quarantine.

If symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are experienced, symptomatic persons should get tested immediately.

Kind regards

Melissa Marquis
Principal



Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
Information for parents/guardians
Child identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case

If your child has been identified as a close contact of a person who has been diagnosed with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), your child must stay home **for at least 7 days** from their last time/date of contact with a positive case of COVID-19, or as advised by **WA Health**.

This letter provides important information about COVID-19 and what you need to do.

What is COVID-19 and what are the symptoms?

COVID-19 is caused by a virus. Symptoms range from mild illness to pneumonia and may include fever, flu-like symptoms (cough, sore throat and fatigue), diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, shortness of breath and loss of smell and/or taste. Some people will recover easily while others may get sicker. Most of the symptoms of COVID-19 can be treated at home.

Does my child need to stay at home all the time?

Your child should not leave your home or accommodation **unless you need to seek urgent medical attention or escape an immediate threat to their safety or your safety**. Your child should not attend public places. Your child should not attend school.

Parents/guardians are not required to quarantine but need to ensure that their child is appropriately cared for. This may mean a parent or guardian needs to miss work or work from home whilst their child is in quarantine. Siblings, who have not been identified as close contacts, are permitted to attend school.

All household members should take extra precautions where appropriate (e.g. wear a mask when leaving the home) and monitor for symptoms. If symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are experienced, they should get tested immediately.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, your household will be at risk of developing COVID-19 and you will be required to complete an additional quarantine period as directed by WA Health.

Your child's legal quarantine requirements are set out in the *COVID Transition (Testing and Isolation) Directions*, which can be found online at:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/covid-transition-testing-and-isolation-directions-no-3>

What about people who live with me and my child?

Please see the [fact sheet](#) for information on how to manage at home and protect the people who live with you, which can be found at www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus.

What do I do if my child develops symptoms of COVID-19?

If you or your child develop symptoms at any time, you/your child should attend your nearest COVID-19 clinic for a test. PCR testing can be accessed at a COVID Clinic: https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/articles/a_e/coronavirus/covid-clinics. Where possible a PCR test is preferred. If you are symptomatic and choose to use a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) instead and, if the initial test is negative, you will need to repeat it 24 hours later.

If you need assistance contact Public Health Operations Team on **1300 316 555**, available 7 days a week between 8:00am and 7:45pm.

When can my child leave isolation?



Government of Western Australia Department of Health

Your child can leave isolation after:

- Your child returned a negative PCR or RAT on or after day 6 (PCR preferred); and
- Your child has not developed any symptoms; and
- 7 days have passed since their last contact with a positive case of COVID-19.

If your child develops symptoms during their period of quarantine, they must have a PCR test.

Your child should not enter any high-risk settings (unless specifically authorised to do so or for emergency medical treatment) for the first 7 days after you come out of isolation. High risk settings include aged care facilities, residential care facilities, health care settings and correctional facilities.

What if I think my child requires medical attention?

Some options for medical care should it be needed:

- Most GPs have access to Telehealth consultations, please contact your GP to book a consultation.
- If your child needs urgent medical treatment at a hospital, call ahead to tell them that your child is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Use a private car for transport, go by the most direct route and wear a mask.
- On arrival at the hospital, notify staff that your child is a contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- If you child has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath, call 000 and request an ambulance. Inform the call centre and ambulance officers that your child is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

What if I am experiencing concerns about my child's mental health?

You may wish to access support through the following agencies:

- Your GP
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) Metro: 1300 555 788 or Peel: 1800 676 822

What if I am experiencing financial issues?

You may be eligible to access the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment, you can apply through Centrelink at

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-western-australia> or contact the Department of Communities on <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/contact/>.

For further information, visit <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>.