

18 July 2022

RE: COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IN SCHOOLS UPDATE JULY 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust this letter finds your family well following the June/July holiday break. I am so happy to write to you following a week of being very unwell myself with COVID-19. Mrs Jealous has also succumbed in the past week, and we both wish to sincerely thank the staff and students for a tremendous start back to Term 3. Special thanks must go to Mrs Bird, Mrs Schrodter, Mrs Newman and Mrs Gledhill for their leadership and guidance during this time.

COVID-19 Update

As you may be aware, the Queensland Premier recently announced an amendment of the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Workers in a high-risk setting Direction effective from 30 June 2022.

While the pandemic is ongoing and the declared health emergency still exists, the Chief Health Officer (CHO), Dr John Gerrard, has determined that the risk in education settings including schools and early childhood education and care, has reduced sufficiently for mandatory vaccinations to no longer be required.

This means that from 30 June 2022, workers will no longer be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to attend schools or early childhood education and care settings in Queensland. This applies to all workers at our school, including volunteers and contractors, unless a worker is covered by the Workers in a Healthcare Setting (COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements) Direction, which does apply to a small number of workers.

Volunteers and contractors will still be required to sign in at Main Reception, however, the Queensland COVID-19 check-in app will not be required. Our school continues to have a range of COVID-safe measures in place, including:

- maintaining good hygiene practices, including regular hand washing and use of hand sanitiser;
- continuing enhanced cleaning;
- encouraging all staff and students to stay home when sick, get tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms, and follow Queensland Health advice for positive cases and close contacts;
- providing rapid antigen tests (RATs) to students and staff who develop symptoms while at school; and
- with the combination of COVID 19 and flu in Queensland, the School is keeping a close eye on case numbers. Staff and students are welcome to wear masks if concerned.

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If case numbers within the School escalate, we may need to consider encouraging all staff and volunteers to wear masks indoors.

If you have any questions or concerns, as always please feel free to contact the School.

Hot Chocolate Thursdays

Our wonderful P&F have begun 'Hot Chocolate and Coffee Mornings'. These are being held every Thursday morning at the Tuckshop Undercover area. We would be love to see you there as we support our P&F, stay warm and have a cuppa and a chat together. I will be available each Thursday morning during this time to meet and talk with families.

Every blessing for term filled with rich learning and fellowship.

Blessings,

Katrina Valencia

Principal