



Catholic School Guidelines

Baseline Settings

ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Effective Term 2

These guidelines have been developed for parents and caregivers as we transition toward living with COVID-19. If conditions change the Chief Health Officer will advise the CEWA to adjust settings.



Definitions

For the purposes of implementing these guidelines, the following definitions apply:

- **School sites (education facilities)** include:
 - a school, including CEWA offices e.g. Leederville, Geraldton, Broome and Bunbury;
 - early learning and care, Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) and long daycare;
 - boarding premises (boarding / residential facilities).
- **Close contact:** a close contact is now defined as:
 - A household member 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 any 24-hour period in a residential setting (for instance a home or accommodation facility);
 - 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.

There is no requirement for parents to report to a school that their child has tested negative to COVID-19, but are encouraged to do so via the COVID-19 Self-Reporting Portal to further support schools with their management of COVID-19.

Parents/caregivers are to inform the school if their child tests positive and must keep them home until well and free of symptoms. Parents/caregivers must also report their child's positive RAT to WA Health.



School attendance

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) encourages all students who are well to attend school, including those with health conditions, unless COVID-19 positive.



Educational continuity

- Schools provide work for students who need to stay home due to isolation requirements (COVID-19 positive students and symptomatic household contacts only). Schools are not required to provide work to students who are being kept at home by a parent when there is no COVID-19 positive case.



School activities

- The following activities may take place without restriction:
 - Band, choir and orchestra rehearsals and performances
 - Whole school and year level assemblies
 - Sporting programs
 - Professional learning activities and conferences
 - Inter-school activities and workshops
 - School balls
- Excursion and offsite events can resume in accordance with venue-based requirements.
- Proof of vaccination for venue entry has been removed, excluding high risk settings.



Camps

School camps are permitted from Term 2.

- Staff/students are required to show evidence (photo) of a negative RAT taken on the morning of the camp for their attendance to be permitted.
- Staff/students who have recently recovered from COVID-19 (within 12 weeks of the camp) are not required to undertake RAT testing.
- Student permission notices for camps must include:
 - Permission for staff to administer a RAT to any student who has symptoms or meets the close contact definition.
 - Agreement of parent/caregiver to immediately collect their child from camp should they test positive.
 - Agreement of parent/caregiver to be contactable at any time and available to take immediate responsibility for the child in the event that they cannot remain/return to the camp facility.
 - Agreement that asymptomatic students identified as close contacts while on camp self-administer a daily RAT and wear a mask.

A supply of saliva RATs should be provided and used wherever possible to allow for the child to self administer.

- If staff must assist a student with their RAT the staff member must
 - wear appropriate PPE; and
 - ensure consent for the RAT has been obtained from the child's parent/caregivers.



School canteens

School canteens can open, and parents and community volunteers can continue to assist in school canteens.



Health and hygiene

Arrangements to continue to reduce direct contact, enhance personal hygiene practices, and strengthen cleaning regimes in schools and care services, are to be encouraged.

Each person has a responsibility to protect themselves and others. This is achieved through the ongoing promotion of the following good hygiene principles and practices:

- staff, students and parents must stay home when sick or symptomatic.
- adults maintain physical distancing from other adults, where possible;
- avoiding unnecessary physical contact and physical greetings (e.g. handshakes, hugs);
- covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, using a flexed elbow or tissue;
- disposing of tissues appropriately;
- washing hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitiser, including prior to meal breaks; and
- posters and visible messaging regarding handwashing and cough-sneeze hygiene should be displayed.



Masks

- Asymptomatic close contacts (in Year 7 or above 12 years of age) are required to wear a mask outside of the home at all times.
- The mask mandate no longer applies to staff and students in schools. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask should they wish.
- Masks are required on public transport, including public transport taken during the course of school activities, as well as in vehicles provided by schools.



Parents/caregivers

Parents and caregivers are permitted on school sites and in classrooms in order to:

- Support school services (canteen/uniform shop).
- Attend both year level and whole school assemblies and special infrequent school events.
- Drop off/pick up.
- Morning reading/activities or to volunteer in classroom activities.
- Attend parent teacher conferences.



School bus services

- Mask wearing remains in place for travel on public transport for persons aged 12 and above.
- School buses are unable to transport students when they have symptoms or if they are supposed to be isolating.