

10 December 2021

Dear parents and carers

Covid-19 measures

We continue to be vigilant as a School community to look out for all students and staff within our care. We continue to promote good hand hygiene with plenty of hand sanitizer being available around the school site, and enhanced school cleaning practices ongoing throughout the day. Working in partnership with you, we hope to limit the cases and spread of infection – covid or otherwise – and keep us all healthy.

Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of Covid-19. We would like to reiterate the importance of wearing face coverings when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors, canteens and communal areas. Please can you discuss this with your child.

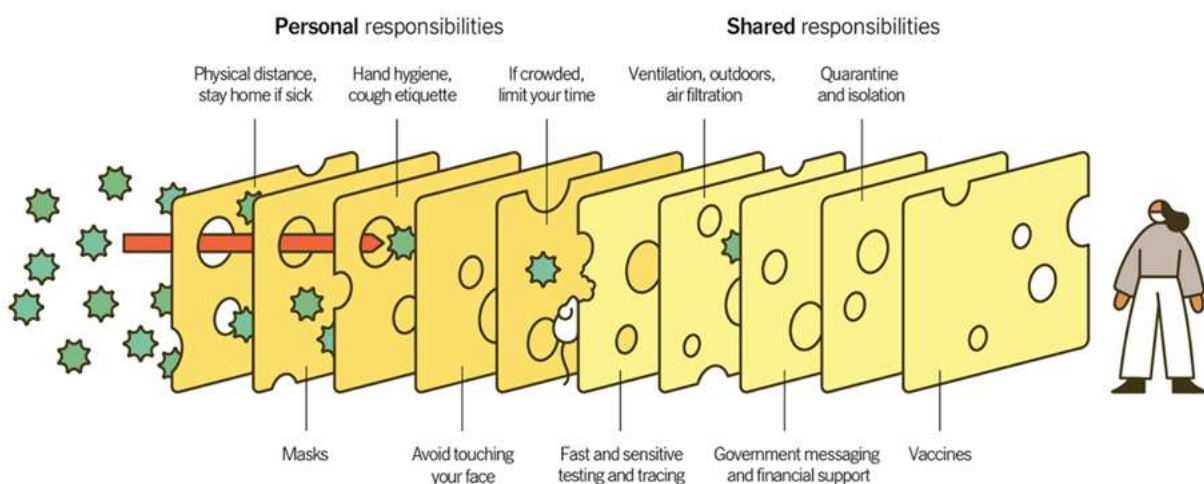
Students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school. At present we do not advise that students and staff wear face coverings in classrooms.

If the school moves to being in an outbreak situation then we will advise on additional measures set out in our outbreak management plan, which may include face coverings in classrooms.

The diagram below is a helpful representation to show ways of reducing the transmission of Covid-19.

Multiple Layers Improve Success

The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.



Source: Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reason. Illustration by Rose Wong

I thought it would also be helpful to clarify some queries about what to do if your child is unwell, or a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Lateral Flow Tests

Lateral Flow tests are for **asymptomatic** testing – so if your child has Covid-19 symptoms, please book a PCR test. The link to book a PCR test via the Government website is [here](#).

We recommend continuing with your asymptomatic twice weekly at-home testing, using Lateral Flow Tests, to help reduce transmission of Covid-19 and identify cases early. Lateral Flow Tests can be ordered via the Government website [here](#). We strongly encourage all staff and students to continue regular Lateral Flow Testing and to report their results via the Government website [here](#).

Keep in touch

Parents should pay close attention to their children's health and report any positive confirmed cases of Covid-19 via the link on the school's website [here](#).

What to do if someone in the household is unwell

If a member of the household has Covid-19 symptoms, they should book a PCR test as soon as possible, and remain at home until they have the results of the PCR. Remember, lateral flow tests are not to be used for symptomatic cases.

What to do if someone in the household tests positive

If a member of the household tests positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Close contacts who are fully vaccinated or under 18 do not have to self-isolate, if they remain well. However, close contacts should have a PCR test as soon as possible. The government advice says that close contacts may continue to go to work, or school.

Other symptoms

The [top 5 symptoms](#) of unvaccinated Covid-19 cases are currently: headache, sore throat, runny nose, fever, and persistent cough, so please be vigilant at looking out for those when assessing whether your child is well enough for school.

Yours sincerely

Marianna Ring

Marianna Ring
School Business Manager