

Thebarton Senior College

40 Ashley Street, Torrensville
South Australia 5031
Reception: 08 8159 3100
Student Services: 08 8159 3162
Fax: 08 8159 3199
Email: info@tsc.sa.edu.au
Web: www.tsc.sa.edu.au
CRICOS Provider: 00018A



Dear students, parents, and carers,

SA Health and the Department for Education have provided guidance on how to manage cases of COVID-19 in schools.

There will be new contact tracing and close contact arrangements in education from 31 January 2022. The new arrangements help us provide quality education and care for our students while minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Schools will remain open if there is a case of COVID-19 under the new arrangements.

It's very important that you notify us immediately if you (student) test positive to COVID-19.

If a student or teacher in your class tests positive for COVID-19, they will be deemed a classroom contact and the following will occur:

- We will notify all students, parents, and carers in that class of the positive case.
- All students without symptoms can continue attending school. No rapid antigen testing will be required.
- If you (student) develop any symptoms (even mild), please stay home from school, and get a COVID-19 test. You may return if you test negative.

Any student who has worked 1:1 with a COVID positive staff member (more than 15 mins, indoors, in close proximity, and where face masks are not able to be worn) will be asked to complete 7 days of rapid antigen testing ('test to stay') each morning before attending school. We will provide you with the testing kits at no charge. Students that test positive must not attend school.

Alternatively, if you don't want to complete the 7-day testing, you can quarantine for 7 days.

The Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) has recommended that classroom contacts should avoid the following between days 1 to 7 of exposure:

- attending extra-curricular-based activities for 7 days (such as camps, excursions, interschool sport, combined choir etc – noting most of these activities have been temporarily suspended until week 4).

The CPHO advises classroom contacts should do the following to minimise risk to others, when outside of the school setting between days 1 to 14 of exposure:

- avoid high risk settings or COVID Management Plan events
- wear a surgical mask around others (where age appropriate) and outside your home
- avoid contact with vulnerable people outside of your workplace or family, where possible
- avoid non-essential activities where possible (e.g., where there are lots of people, inside, in close contact)
- avoid shared spaces and maintain physical distance.

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Our staff will also undergo 7 days of rapid antigen testing (test to stay) in the event that they are in a classroom with a student or colleague who tests positive.

It's vitally important that students please:

- Stay home if:
 - you are unwell
 - you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms
 - any other member of the household has COVID-19
 - you are a close contact for a person who has COVID-19 and are required to quarantine
- Notify us ASAP if you (student) test positive for COVID-19
- Students will be required to wear a face mask while indoors at school. We will have supplies for them to wear if they don't already have one.

These new settings will be in place until the end of week 4 of term 1. However, with the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic, this may be reviewed or changed if and when needed. As always, we must remain flexible and responsive.

I understand you may have questions about this information. We'll continue to provide you with information as soon as we have it.

Thank you for your understanding and support in implementing these temporary measures as we continue to adjust to this rapidly changing pandemic.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eva Kannis-Torry".

Eva Kannis-Torry
Principal
Thursday, 27 January 2022