

19 November 2021



Dear Parents/Caregivers

PASTORAL COMMUNICATION

- **Managing risks associated with COVID-19 and entering Catholic Education sites**
- **Forward Plan from Tuesday, 23 November 2021 until further notice**

This letter provides families guidance on the **Forward Plan 2021 for Catholic Education**.

The College is guided by continual updates from SA Health and Catholic Education of South Australia (CESA). This includes the latest advice published as part of the **Forward Plan** that is effective **Tuesday, 23 November 2021**, in conjunction with the reopening of South Australian borders. The Forward Plan from CESA is adapted from the Department for Education publication circulated to government schools earlier this week.

The Forward Plan includes the following:

Managing risks associated with COVID-19 entering a school population

No single measure can minimise the spread of the virus. Instead, each risk mitigation forms a layer of protection to minimise the likelihood of spread.

- Face-to-face learning and care will continue for all students with COVID safe measures.
- Vulnerable students with health risks should seek medical advice and work with the school.
- Schools remain open unless directed to close due to a confirmed case or in the event of a significant outbreak.

SA Health will work with CESA in managing contact tracing if a confirmed case(s) is identified and existing closure and cleaning protocols apply. If SA Health identifies a significant regional/localised outbreak, CESA will advise the College on activating remote learning. All schools and preschools will then remain open with skeleton staff for students that need to attend. Critical activities that will continue in a regional/localised outbreak include essential construction works and vaccine rollout in some schools.

COVID-Safe Measures

Vaccination

- All eligible students (aged 12+) are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated.

Masks

- Optional indoors for all staff on-site and students in secondary settings until there is an SA Health requirement to reinstate masks in response to transmission risk.
- Wearing masks is recommended for all adult visitors to the College.
- The College has a supply of masks if and when required and will continue to provide masks for students without one for excursions and buses.

Hygiene

- Good hygiene practices must be maintained, including handwashing and hand sanitiser use.
- If unwell, students and staff must stay home, regardless of vaccination status or test outcome.
- Additional daily cleaning.
- All staff and visitors are required to COVID-Safe check-in when entering a building.
- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres between adults where possible.
- Visitors, including parents and volunteers, are allowed on site as long as COVID safe measures are in place and followed.

Events

- Events can be held (on-site and at other venues) provided all COVID-Safe requirements are in place and followed, i.e., physical distancing, QR check-in, face masks for audience members when indoors, hand sanitiser/hygiene is maintained. Attendees are encouraged to stay home if unwell.
- Have contingency plans in place and be prepared to postpone or cancel if health settings change.

Activities

- Interstate travel/camps are not recommended.
- Intrastate excursions/camps can continue, subject to appropriate contingency planning and assessment of COVID-19 risks.

Forward Plan for Catholic Education

The complete **Forward Plan for Catholic Education** adapted for parents/caregivers and the general community is attached on the following page.

The College will continue to adapt and adjust to the SA Health and CESA directions. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these changes across the Primary and Secondary campuses.

Stay safe and well.

Thank you.

Matthew Williams

MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Deputy Principal Pastoral

South Australian COVID-19 Forward Plan for Catholic Education 2021

From 23 November until further notice



This plan outlines how to manage risks associated with COVID-19 entering Catholic Education sites and is based on Department for Education advice.

It is important to remember that no one measure can minimise spread of the virus. Each risk mitigation forms a layer of protection and minimises likelihood of spread.

Vaccination

- All eligible students (aged 12+) are **strongly encouraged** to be fully vaccinated.
- All staff, board members, contractors and volunteers must receive **at least 1 dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine by 10 December 2021** and show evidence for the booking of a second COVID-19 vaccination dose.
- All employees, board members, contractors and volunteers will have their **vaccination status** recorded.

Learning Continuity

- **Face-to-face learning** and care will continue for all students with COVID safe measures. Vulnerable students with health risks should seek medical advice and work with the school or preschool.
- All sites will **remain open** unless directed to close due to a confirmed case or in the event of significant outbreak.
- If a confirmed case(s) is identified, SA Health will work with CESA in managing **contact tracing** and existing **closure and cleaning protocols** will apply.
- If SA Health identify a significant regional/ localised outbreak, CESA will advise when to activate **remote learning**. All schools and preschools will remain open with skeleton staff for students that need to attend.
- Critical activities that will continue in the event of a regional/ localised outbreak include essential construction works and vaccine rollout in schools.

COVID Safe Measures

COVID Safe Measures include:

- **Masks** remain optional indoors for all staff on site and students in secondary settings until there is a SA Health requirement to reinstate masks in response to transmission risk.
- Masks are recommended for all adult visitors to site.
- Sites will maximise natural **ventilation** in classrooms and meeting spaces and use outdoor learning spaces where appropriate.
- Everyone should maintain **good hygiene** practices, including hand washing and sanitiser use.
- **Unwell** students and staff must stay home, regardless of vaccination status or test outcome.
- Additional **daily cleaning** as required.
- All staff and visitors will be required to **COVID-Safe check-in** when entering a site.
- **Physical distancing** of 1.5 metres between adults applies where possible.
- **Visitors** (including parents and volunteers) will be allowed on site as long as COVID-Safe measures are in place and followed.

Events and Activities

- **Events** can be held (on site and at other venues) providing all COVID-Safe requirements are in place and followed - ie physical distancing, QR check in, face masks for audience members when indoors, sanitiser/hygiene, attendees are encouraged to stay home if unwell.
- **Interstate travel/camps** are not recommended. Critical trips with appropriate planning will be considered on a case by case basis.
- **Intrastate excursions/camps** can continue, subject to appropriate contingency planning and assessment of COVID-19 risks.

Early Childhood Services

Additional Information for Early Childhood Services

- Early childhood services will **remain open** unless directed to close by SA Health due to a confirmed case or in the event of significant outbreak.
 - If a confirmed case(s) is identified the site will be directed to close and undertake deep cleaning.
 - The site will reopen to all staff/educators and children other than those directed to quarantine at the soonest possible time on advice from SA Health.
- If SA Health identifies a significant regional/localised outbreak, sites will remain open with skeleton staff/educators only for children that need to attend.
- **Masks** are optional indoors for adults, including staff/educators until there is a SA Health requirement to reinstate in response to transmission risk. Masks are recommended for all adult visitors to site.
- Sites should ensure **regular environmental cleaning** throughout the day through maintaining full adherence to the National Health and Medical Research Council childcare cleaning guidelines.
- **Physical distancing** of 1.5 metres applies, particularly for those with face mask exemptions.
- Visitors (including parents) are allowed on site and **events** will proceed as long as all COVID-Safe requirements are in place and followed - ie physical distancing, QR check-in or visitor record of attendance, face masks, sanitiser/hygiene, stay home if unwell.

More Information

Contact your Principal or site leader for more information or refer to the Catholic Education SA website:

www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/alerts