



# Marie Bashir Public School

159 Albert Road Strathfield, 2135

Phone: (02) 8736 4400 Fax: (02) 8736 4450

Email: [mariebashir-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mariebashir-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Web: <https://mariebashir-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

25 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to a new school year. While this is not going to be a normal start, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow.

The Department of Education has developed some COVID-smart measures in partnership with NSW Health to help minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures are detailed on the information sheet below. Please read through this information carefully, especially in relation to **collecting your Rapid Antigen Tests on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> or Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January**, and what will happen if there is a COVID case at our school.

Students attending school will continue to operate in cohorts with staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts. School start and finish times for Term 1 will be:

- Years 3 -6 9:00am to 3:00pm (drop off from 8:35am)
- Kindergarten to Year 2: 9:25am to 3:25pm (drop off from 9am)

**Students with an older sibling are to be picked up at the earlier time of 3:00pm.**

I also want to invite you to a **Parent Information Session** on zoom to share the information about our return to school in Term 1 and give you an opportunity to answer any questions.

**When:** 9:00-9:30am, Monday 31 January 2022

**Zoom link:** <https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/65210856790?pwd=ak41VltQmFCak5WbzFYdXVTcGIZQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 652 1085 6790

**Passcode:** 2022

During the zoom meeting we will cover many of the things you will need to know for the return of school in Term 1 2022, including testing, masks, vaccinations, ventilation, visitor protocols and potential learning from home arrangements.

While your child's relationship with their teacher is important, they may have a different teacher more often than usual as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19. If your child is isolating at home and not unwell, we will do our best to support their learning online.

We look forward to connecting with you at the parent information session. Please send any questions you would like answered to [mariebashir-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mariebashir-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) in advance and we will try to cover as many as possible.

Thank you again for your continued support as we commence the school term.

Regards,

Jacqueline Attard  
Principal  
25 January 2022



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## Information Sheet on Return to School, Term 1, 2022

### Rapid antigen testing

Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) website.

### How and when do I pick up the RAT kits?

We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff and they can be collected during the following timeslots from the **front of the school**:

- Families with surnames A-H: Friday 28 January from 1-3pm
- Families with surnames I-P: Monday 31 January from 10-12pm
- Families with surnames Q-Z Monday 31 January from 1-3pm

Parents and carers are advised to leave the pick-up location immediately after picking up their packs of RAT kits.

### Additional information about Rapid Antigen Testing

- School staff will not be administering the rapid antigen tests to students.
- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school on **Mondays and Wednesdays**.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 4 RATs to be used twice a week for the first 2 weeks of school in the morning before attending school.
- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT result, they need to:
  - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#).
  - notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible
  - follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days.
- Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

### If your child has symptoms or is unwell at school

Do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 (sore throat, runny nose, cough or shortness of breath). Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test. If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.

If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative and they are displaying no symptoms OR they are diagnosed as another condition such as hay fever, the student or staff member can return to school. A medical certificate with this information should be provided to the school.



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## What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when I am aware there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Any student or staff member who tests positive to COVID-19 is required to follow NSW Health Requirements under the Public Health Order. Currently, these requirements are:

- Isolate for 7 days following the positive test
- Leave isolation after 7 days if no symptoms (sore throat, runny nose, cough or shortness of breath)
- If there are symptoms after 7 days then remain in isolation until 24 hours after symptoms are resolved. Students who test positive must remain in isolation for 7 days.

Students who are household contacts of a positive case must remain in isolation for 7 days and are not permitted to attend school.

## Use of surgical masks

All primary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors. Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors.

No vented or cloth masks should be worn. If required surgical masks will be available at schools.

Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.

For more information, refer to [Face masks in NSW](#).

## Visitors on school sites and vaccinations

No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or students starting at a new school.
- Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops and canteens must be fully vaccinated.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students must be fully vaccinated.

All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, and have their booster when eligible.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) to book an appointment near you.

## Ventilation, cleaning and physical distancing

We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

We will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines that natural ventilation is the most effective measure so we will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows. Where natural ventilation is not sufficient, mechanical ventilation and/or air purification will be used and we will continue to use outdoor settings where possible.

We continue to have enhanced cleaning focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas and follow physical distancing guidelines, maintain 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.