



St Agnes Catholic High School

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27 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you again for your support as we prepare to welcome our students back to school. We will start the year with strong COVID-smart measures developed by the NSW Government in partnership with NSW Health. I am writing to share more information about Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) and mask requirements for the beginning of Term 1.

Rapid Antigen Testing

The school will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1. Students will receive their kits on their first day they attend school during Homeroom time. Families will be supplied with enough RATs for two tests for each child for each week for the first two weeks of the term. The students will be given four (4) RAT kits on their first day of school. It is recommended that tests should be completed at home in the morning on Mondays and Wednesdays before attending school that week.

RATs are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19 and their use is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. 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 10 minutes. It is **expected** that all students will comply with these testing procedures.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely.

If your child receives a **positive** RAT result, you need to:

- record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
- Immediately notify the school on 8882 0700 or stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au of the positive RAT (or a PCR test) 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.

Please also note that school staff will not be administering RATs to students.

Wearing a mask at school

A reminder that wearing a surgical mask indoors is **required** for all students in Year 7 and above, and **strongly recommended** for all primary students. Unfortunately, the NSW Government requirement is that these masks must be **surgical masks** and that **no** vented or cloth masks should be worn.

Where possible, it would be much appreciated if families could arrange to supply these masks to students. However, the school has a small stock of surgical masks and should be able to provide these as a back-up option if needed. Thank you for your assistance on this.

Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where students cannot physically distance themselves. Of course, your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office on 8882 0700 or stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au. Thank you for your support as we continue working together, responding to the demands COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Holland', written in a cursive style.

Jeanette Holland

Principal