



Parents and Caregivers,

Keeping schools open and safe is important for students, staff, parents/carers and the broader Western Australian economy. The change in guidelines is about minimising the impact on student learning and on parents'/carers' ability to work. As indicated in my last letter, students can continue on at school when they are close contacts of a non-household positive case. They must isolate outside of school hours. They can attend before and after school care. If your child is a close contact of someone living in the same house, all the household is in isolation.

The contact may be connected to a positive case within the school where we will communicate the isolation dates and procedures. When the contact occurs outside the school, you will need to let us know if it is a household or non-household contact. If your child tests positive, you will need to let us know immediately so that we can complete contact tracing and determine if your child was at school while infectious.

Under the very high case load environment, school staff have been deemed essential workers and can agree to work provided they are not Covid positive if we are unable to cover the class at school. As the cases increase we will need to be flexible depending on how many students are attending individual classes and how many are at home. Teachers are not required to do both face to face teaching and at-home learning.

While it is your choice about sending your child to school when they are a non-household close contact, we encourage you to bring them to school so fact to face learning can continue with minimal disruption.

The following table outlines the protocols set by Health for both staff and students if they are either a **confirmed positive case** or are a **close contact of a positive case and have symptoms**.

	Protocol
Staff and students - Confirmed positive case	<p>Isolate for a minimum of 7 full days; if symptoms still present, continue isolating until symptoms clear; or if no symptoms after Day 7, leave isolation.</p> <p>*No exit testing or clearance is required.</p>
Staff and Students - Symptomatic close contact	<p>Quarantine for a full seven days either from the date of symptom onset or date of exposure to case, whichever is later; and</p> <p>Take a PCR test or RAT within 24 hours of becoming a close contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if positive – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guideline. • if negative PCR, continue to quarantine. • if negative RAT, continue to quarantine and take a repeat RAT in 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if RAT positive – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guideline. ○ if RAT negative – continue to quarantine. <p>Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if positive – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guideline. Note: all positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if negative – and no new household members have tested positive - isolation ends after Day 7, and people should monitor for symptoms.

The following table outlines the protocols set by Health for students if they are a non-household close contact or a household close contact and **do not have symptoms**.

	Protocol
Students – asymptomatic close contacts of a COVID-19 case outside the home	<p>Continue attending school, if no symptoms.</p> <p>Students who are a close contact of a COVID-19 case outside the home, can continue to attend school under a modified quarantine arrangement.</p> <p>Take a PCR test or a RAT within 24 hours of becoming a close contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if positive – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guideline. • if negative - under modified quarantine arrangements students can attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - school; - out of school care; and - sporting or cultural training, practice or events organised through the relevant school and held immediately before or after school on the student's school grounds, travelling between the student's usual place of residence and the place where the activity above takes place. <p>Note: at all other times students are required to isolate.</p> <p>Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if positive – follow confirmed positive case guideline. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister. • if negative – no further action required. <p>You must return a negative Day 6 PCR test or Day 7 RAT and continue modified quarantine arrangement until the end of Day 7. After this point, provided you have no symptoms and no one in your household has tested positive, you can leave isolation. When students return to school, principals are not required to confirm any evidence of testing and/or a negative test result.</p> <p>Note: If symptoms develop at any time during your modified quarantine arrangements, take a RAT or PCR test as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if PCR test is negative – continue to isolate. • if RAT is negative – continue to isolate and take a repeat RAT 24 hours after your first RAT. <p>If your PCR or first RAT after developing symptoms was on Day 7 of your isolation, you must continue to isolate until you are informed that the PCR is negative or until your second RAT is negative.</p>

	Protocol
Students - asymptomatic household close contact	<p>Students who are close household contacts of a confirmed case are unable to attend school.</p> <p>They must quarantine for a full 7 days from the time of the positive case's test; and take a PCR test or a RAT within 24 hours of becoming a close contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if RAT positive – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guideline. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister. • if negative PCR or RAT, continue to quarantine. <p>Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if positive – follow confirmed positive case guideline. All positive RATs must be reported to WA Health via www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister. • if negative – quarantine ends after Day 7. Continue to monitor for symptoms. <p>When students return to school, principals are not required to confirm any evidence of testing and/or a negative test result.</p> <p>Note: If symptoms develop at any time during your isolation, take a RAT or PCR test as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if PCR test is negative – continue to isolate. • if RAT is negative – take a repeat RAT 24 hours after your first RAT. <p>If your PCR or first RAT after developing symptoms was on Day 7 of your isolation, you must continue to isolate until you are informed that the PCR is negative or until your second RAT is negative.</p>

These new guidelines are based on sound advice. As you may be aware, within household positive cases generally lead to others in the house also contracting Covid. For this reason, non-household contacts pose less risk. The information can be a little overwhelming. If you are unsure about what to do around isolating, please contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Shelley Blakers
Principal
11 March 2022