

TERM 3 COVID-SMART GUIDELINES

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to term 3. Trusting our families and friends enjoyed a fun, safe and enjoyable school vacation period.

In term 3 at Fairfield West PS, we continue to use a combination of layered safety measures: symptomatic rapid antigen testing (RAT); vaccinations; ventilation; masks; hygiene and cleaning – which allows us to keep the school operational.

Masks: Masks are an effective way of minimising the transmission of viral illnesses and infectious diseases, and protecting our community, especially those who are at higher risk of severe illness. We are strongly encouraging all staff and students to wear masks for the first 4 weeks of term 3, we also ask that parents and carers consider wearing a mask when coming on the school grounds – although this is not mandatory, we have students who are vulnerable, and it would be appreciated.

Once again, we urge all parents and carers to please keep your children at home if they are unwell. This week all students will be provided with RAT tests for use if a child is unwell or is a close contact.

Remember to use a rapid antigen test if your child is experiencing even mild [COVID-19 symptoms](#)[External link](#) and keep them home until they are well and free of any symptoms, even if their result is negative.

MAINSTREAM: Close contacts. Staff and students identified as close contacts remain able to attend school providing, they are symptom free, notify the school and return a negative COVID-19 test result daily for 5 consecutive school days.

SUPPORT UNITS: Close contacts. The rules regarding close contacts in SSPs, support units/classes and students using assisted transport programs remain unchanged. Staff and students in these settings are not allowed to attend school as close contacts and will continue to be supported to work and learn remotely. Additionally, visitors identified as close contacts are not allowed to engage directly with students in these settings.

If your child's RAT result is positive, it must be reported through the [Service NSW website](#)[External link](#) or [Service SNW app](#)[External link](#) For information on managing COVID-19 and isolating at home refer to the [NSW Government's Testing positive to COVID-19 fact sheet](#)[External link](#).

Protecting your family from the flu and COVID-19 this winter

Flu and COVID-19 can be serious illnesses, even in children and teenagers. Both viruses can spread quickly when large numbers of people are in close contact, such as at school.

Flu vaccines are free for all NSW residents aged 6 months and older in the month of June, as part of the NSW Government's effort to combat this year's expected severe influenza season. We strongly recommend that families take advantage of this opportunity. Vaccinations are available through GPs and pharmacies and can be safely received at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccination remains a recommendation for everyone aged 5 years and over, and is also available through GPs and pharmacies

NSW Health is urging parents of children aged 6 months to under 5 years to book their child in for a free flu vaccine from their GP as soon as possible. This year there is particular concern

for those young children aged two and under, who have never lived through a flu season or gained any immunity to the virus so vaccination against the flu is particularly important for this age group.

Vaccinations are available through GPs for everyone aged six months and over and are also available through pharmacies for everyone aged 10 and over. Those aged 5 and over may be charged a fee to have their child vaccinated for flu. We recommend taking advantage of the NSW Government's free flu vaccine initiative for all NSW residents until 17 July.

For more information, visit nsw.gov.au/flu [External link](#) and [Free flu shots for all until 17 July](#).


Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

Genelle Goldfinch

Genelle Goldfinch
Principal
19 July 2022



Some helpful reminders

Free flu vaccinations 
extended to 17 July

Flu vaccination uptake in NSW is low

Age group	26 June 2022 (%)
6mo - < 5yr	25.2
5yr - < 15yr	18.6
15yr - < 50yr	23.4
50yr - < 65yr	39.5
≥ 65yr	64.0
Total (≥ 6mo)	33.5

Does my child have an up to date vaccination status? 




NSW

Close contact and need to attend school? You must:

-  be symptom-free
-  notify your school that you're a close contact
-  follow NSW Health's guidelines for the next 7 days

COVID SAFETY

Had COVID-19?

Change to testing and self-isolation advice

