

27th May 2022

Dear Encounter Families

COVID Update regarding Mask Mandates

You may already be aware that mask mandates in schools will be relaxed from next Monday, meaning we all need to be mindful of the following changes:

- Face masks will be required for students (Years 7-12 only), staff and visitors for a 14-day period, where an individual class reports 10 cases or above over 7 days or where a school reports 5 classes with 5 cases or more over 7 days. If masks are required, we will notify you as soon as possible.
- Face masks will continue to be required for close contacts aged 12 years or older as per the [SA Health close contact guidelines](#).
- Face masks continue to be strongly recommended (but not required) for all adults - including visitors and parents - while indoors, except when teaching or interacting with children and for students in Years 3 to 12 while indoors.

If you are on-site and remain outdoors, masks are no longer required. While the recommendation for masks remains, the expectation for masks to be worn indoors will cease. The decision to wear or not wear a mask is for each member of the community to make and their choice will be respected.

There continues to be COVID cases amongst our staff and student population and many of you have now experienced the disruption and health impact associated with this. Many of you have also started to contract other cold and flu symptoms and illnesses in recent weeks which have required time away from work and school.

As we transition to an environment where we see a less visible presence of COVID, I ask you to continue to be vigilant when it comes to keeping sick children at home when needed. Any illness is made far worse when children with obvious symptoms are sent to school for reasons of convenience rather than keeping them home out of courtesy. I thank you for being mindful and supportive of this request.

As we continue Term 2 and many classes enjoy and plan for camps, excursions and other rich learning and life experiences, it's worth us all pinching ourselves and being grateful that there is an increasing sense of life returning to normal.

Sincerely

**Kelvin Grivell**
Principal