

Staying COVID Smart during term 3

Dear parents and carers,

I'd like to welcome back all students and families for the start of term 3.

In preparation for term 3 please see the below information about COVID-19 safety measures that has been provided to me by the Education Directorate.

You would be aware the ACT has been experiencing high levels of respiratory illness, with significant community transmission of COVID-19. The ACT Government's priority remains to minimise the impact of COVID-19 and influenza on our community and to protect those at greatest risk of severe illness.

Please be assured our schools are working to minimise any potential disruption to your child's learning while ensuring the health and wellbeing of student and school staff.

Learning in term 3

The ACT Government's priority continues to be ensuring high quality learning for all students, regardless of the public health situation. While face-to-face learning in the classroom will remain the core way students learn this term, there may be times where they will do some of their learning a little differently.

We expect COVID-19 will continue to impact schools and may limit the availability of teachers. When we are unable to support students in the classroom as a result of staff availability, there may be the need to learn online for a short time, either from home or in a supervised setting at school. We have the programs, skills, and technology to do this well and our schools have been planning to enable learning to be delivered in a number of different ways.

We know families need some level of predictability, so as much as possible, you will be given notice ahead of time if your child may be required to learn at home. As always, students who can't stay at home for any reason can still come to school and will be supervised while undertaking the same online learning activities as their peers.

We are committed to being open and transparent with our families through this journey and we value the support received from our school community to date.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) will continue to be available at our school and will be provided to staff and students on an as needed basis. You will only need to report a positive COVID-19 case to us if your child attended school during their infectious period. Parents and carers must report a positive RAT to ACT Health and follow their advice about quarantine arrangements.

Stay COVID Smart

The best way to prevent and prepare for illness, including COVID-19 and Influenza, is to ensure you follow ACT Health's recommendations:

- Stay up to date with **COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations**. This is the best way to protect yourself from severe illness.
- Stay home if you are unwell and get tested for COVID-19. Do not attend school campus if unwell or if you have tested positive to COVID-19.

- Practise good hand and respiratory hygiene. While masks are no longer mandatory except for in some settings/situations, ACT Health does strongly encourage their use particularly during this period of increased COVID-19 and Influenza cases. Masks and hand sanitiser are available at our school.

If your child or young person is a household contact, they may still attend school as long as they do not have any symptoms and have tested negative for COVID-19. Please follow ACT Health advice and also let our school know.

Wellbeing

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has been disruptive to our lives. The wellbeing of our students, teachers and school staff remains a priority.

If you or your children are experiencing increased levels of stress and anxiety, we encourage you to view the supports available on the [ACT Education website](#).

Term 3 Planning Days

Lastly, I'd like to remind you of the two pupil free staff planning days across ACT public schools to give teachers time for lesson planning and admin work they can't do while on class. The dates for our pupil free planning days are:

- Friday 5 August 2022, and
- Friday 9 September 2022.

Students who can't stay at home on these days will be able to attend school for supervision and general learning activities. Colleges and some schools that have pre-planned activities on these days may hold their staff planning days at another time. These schools will communicate directly with student and families about this.

Thank you again for your support as we navigate this challenging time. To keep up to date on how COVID-19 is being managed in ACT Public Schools, visit the [ACT Education website](#).

Regards,

Jason Holmes
Principal

Florence Llopis
Proviseure

Telopea Park School/Lyce Franco-Australien de Canberra