

COVID-19 ADVICE FOR FAMILIES

Adapted from the Covid-19 Advice for Victorian Government Schools (14 May 2024 ed.), ISV Memoranda 48/2024 (16 May 2024) and Department of Health alert (10 May 2024).

1. Management of Covid-19 at VCC

Any student who is symptomatic is recommended to undergo testing for COVID-19. Parents of students who are symptomatic will be asked to collect their child from school and to keep them home until they are no longer symptomatic.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 are **recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and not attend school until their symptoms have resolved.**

VCC treats health information, including positive COVID-19 test results, in accordance with our Privacy Policy. COVID-19 diagnoses are not shared or discussed unless the individual (or their parent/carer) provides consent, or unless the College are legally obliged or authorised to do so.

2. COVIDsafe Measures

COVIDsafe measures have changed but we continue to implement important practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

We will continue to ensure:

- air purifiers are in use
- external ventilation is maximised
- good personal hygiene is encouraged and
- face masks continue to be made available for staff, students and visitors who wish to wear them.

3. Vaccinations

Families are strongly recommended to ensure they keep up-to-date with all recommended and available COVID-19 vaccinations as vaccinations are the best way to protect individuals, families and school communities from the severe effects of COVID-19 and reduce the spread of the virus.

Vaccination is no longer mandatory for staff, senior students or visitors in any Victorian school.

4. Rapid Antigen Testing

It is recommended that rapid antigen tests (RATs) are used by students:

- If they have symptoms of COVID-19 infection, no matter how mild.
- If they are a household or close contact of someone who has COVID-19.
- If they are a social contact of someone who has COVID-19.

Reporting Results

The Department of Health no longer requires Victorians to report a positive RAT result.

As with any illness, parents are asked to notify VCC if their child is unwell by e-mailing attendance@vcc.vic.edu.au or adding an absence note to Compass.

VCE students who are missing a SAC must provide a medical certificate to the College.

If you have any questions about COVID-19, you may call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080.

RAT kits

Rapid Antigen Tests are no longer provided free to schools. RATs can be purchased from supermarkets and pharmacies.



5. Face Masks

Current advice from the Victorian government is available on the ['face masks'](#) page of the Coronavirus site.

Students who wish to wear a face mask will be supported to do so.

The Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 when leaving home.

Additionally, the Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who has COVID-19 for at least 7 days after a positive test when they need to leave home.

6. Infection Prevention and Control

Students and visitors to schools should practise good hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet. Staff will direct or supervise young students where required.