



Oakleigh Grammar

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| Policy Document Name | COVID-19 Policy |
| Date Ratified by Board of Management | July 2023 (pending) |
| Date for Review | July 2024 |

This policy reflects the information provided on the Victorian Government School Operations Advice website, effective commencement of July 2023. This information replaces the documentation previously known as the School Operations Guide.

1. COVID-19 Protocols

These protocols outline processes in the event of a confirmed or suspected case of COVID19 within the Oakleigh Grammar community. It should be read in conjunction with the school's COVID-19 Safety Management Plan.

As of 10 July 2023, schools are no longer required to record student cases of COVID-19 reported by staff, parents or carers. This change is consistent with changes the Department of Health made on 1 July 2023, removing the option for the community to self-report their rapid antigen test (RAT) results. The school's policy, guidance and advice has been updated to reflect these changed requirements.

2. COVID-19 Safe Measures

Schools are required to continue to implement important practices to reduce the risk of COVID 19 transmission. Schools must continue to:

- ensure air purifiers are in use
- maximise external ventilation
- encourage good personal hygiene
- make face masks available for staff, students and visitors who wish to wear them.

The **School's COVID-19 Safety Management Plan (COVID Safe Plan)** is regularly updated in line with Government advice. The Principal will ensure staff are aware of this plan.

All staff, students and visitors to the school 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 should direct or supervise young students where required.

3. Management of COVID19

It is recommended that staff members, students or visitors who have symptoms of cold, influenza or COVID-19 undergo testing for COVID-19. Parents of symptomatic students will be asked to collect their child from school and keep them home until they are no longer symptomatic. Students will be isolated until collected.

The Department of Health recommends that staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 isolate for a minimum of 5 days and do not attend school until their symptoms resolve.

If well enough, students will be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning material provided to support their continued learning.

Oakleigh Grammar will treat health information, including positive COVID-19 test results, in accordance with the Schools' Privacy Policy. COVID-19 diagnoses are not to be shared or discussed unless the individual (or their parent/carer) provides consent, or unless the school is authorised to do so.

3a. Rapid Antigen Testing

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

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

3b. Face Masks

Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask will be supported to do so

The School will continue to make face masks available for staff, students and visitors.

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
- has COVID-19 for at least 7 days after a positive test when they need to leave home.

3c. Vaccinations

Staff and students are strongly recommended to ensure they keep up-to-date with all recommended and available COVID-19 vaccinations.

3d. Household Contacts

Isolation requirements have been abolished for household contacts so students/staff do not need to remain at home if a member of their household has tested positive.

If symptomatic, students/staff should undertake a Rapid Antigen Test.

If asymptomatic, students/staff should continue to attend school and monitor for symptoms. They are encouraged to wear a face mask.

4. Camps

Prior to attending a camp, staff and students will be encouraged to undertake a Rapid Antigen Test.

Staff or students who have symptoms should not attend the camp.