

# COVID-19 update 109

## 14 February 2022

*This document has been prepared for use by WA Public Schools and is provided to Independent Schools for their information and use in decision-making processes.*

*This document is uncontrolled and some information relating specifically to Department of Education operational processes has been removed prior to distribution.*

Not all COVID-19 information is covered in this document.

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### For action

#### High caseload settings

Principals can use the following school-based close contacts information to inform parents, carers, staff, and students of the definitions of close contacts in schools.

- face-to-face contact for 15 minutes or more with an infectious person, where a mask was not worn by the exposed person or the person with COVID-19
- interaction for more than two hours in a small indoor space or interaction for more than two hours in a classroom environment with an infectious person, where masks have been removed for this period
- someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact

Schools should refer to the most recent Operating Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions documents for information on school activities.

School activities not referred to in the document, High caseload settings – Operating guidelines for public schools, should continue as normal.

#### High caseload settings – residential facilities

The operating guidelines and support documents for residential facilities have been provided to these schools.

#### Face covering mandate

All staff need to ensure that any staff member, student, or visitor to a school who has been in a region with a mask mandate in place, wears a mask for 14 days after leaving the region, unless exempt.

#### COVID-19 positive case at your school

If a COVID-19 positive case is identified at your school, please report it to the [AISWA COVID-19 Support Team](#) as soon as you become aware of it.

Principals will be required to fill in a Ministerial Outbreak Information Report if a COVID-19 positive case is identified at your school. Principals are encouraged to pre-populate this information sheet in preparation for a COVID-19 case at your school.

Jenny Nobbs, AISWA's COVID-19 Incident Response Officer, will be your main point of contact and will provide you with reporting templates and support, as required.

Please provide any students who are instructed by WA Health to isolate for 7 days, remote learning provisions to take home for the duration of their isolation.

### **Students and staff returning to school after isolation**

Schools are not required to view or record evidence of a COVID-19 negative result for those returning to school following a period of isolation as advised by WA Health.

If a principal believes a returning student or staff member has not complied with a WA Health instruction, they should email the [AISWA COVID-19 Support Team](#) for advice.

### **Quarantine requirements for travellers**

The Premier announced a change for quarantine requirements for travellers which was implemented from Wednesday 9 February:

- reduction in quarantine for approved international and interstate travellers to 7 days;
- travellers must wear a mask in indoor and outdoor settings for the following 7 days;
- vaccinated direct international travellers permitted to self-quarantine at a suitable premises, if eligible;
- international arrivals cap doubling to 530 travellers per week;
- unvaccinated international arrivals required to complete 14 days in hotel quarantine; and
- mandatory use of G2G Now still required by all arrivals in self-quarantine.

Although RATs can now be used for testing, Western Australians are encouraged to continue presenting to COVID-19 testing clinics for PCR testing where possible. For more information refer to new [COVID-19 protocols commence in WA](#).

### **School buses**

On 9 February, the Public Transport Authority advised the Department of the following COVID-19 safe update as follows:

- all green, silver and orange buses abide by the current mandated mask wearing rules in place in the region;
- decals/stickers are placed on buses that outline the rules on buses;
- green and silver buses have COVID-19 kits and are able to supply a mask to someone if they do not have one;
- there is no capacity in place currently to implement capacity limits or customised requirements on buses. They do not have resources to cater for this and it could affect children accessing school;
- no other adjustments/requirements are in place for travel; and
- contracted companies, such as orange bus services, are required to locally manage requirements through their bus drivers and are contracted to operate in accordance with PTA directions.

## **For information**

### **Attendance**

A reminder that students who are unwell, symptomatic or test positive to COVID-19 should stay home and be marked as absent when parents/carers notify the school, as per the school's normal process.

### COVID-19 safe schools

Principals are to remind staff and students to remain home if feeling unwell. If they have any COVID-19 like symptoms, get a COVID-19 test and remain home until a negative COVID-19 test result is received. Further [information about symptoms](#) can be found on [healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au).

### COVID-19 support contacts

<b>AISWA COVID-19 Team</b>	<b><a href="mailto:covid@ais.wa.edu.au">covid@ais.wa.edu.au</a></b>
<b>Phone support</b>	(08) 9441 1600
<b>DoE COVID-19 Support Team</b>	<b><a href="mailto:coronavirussupport@education.wa.edu.au">coronavirussupport@education.wa.edu.au</a></b>
<b>Phone support</b>	1800 882 345