****ACT CECG COVID-19 Management Plan

Term 3 2022

This plan is subject to health advice at the time. The health and safety of students, staff and their families is the priority

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| CECG will deliver on-campus learning with the following COVID smart measures in place to minimise transmission of COVID-19 onsite. All schools should regularly review, and update where required, their approach to managing COVID-19 as appropriate. Our approach is informed by the [National Framework for Managing COVID-19 in Schools and Early Childhood Education and Care Settings](https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/resources/national-framework-managing-covid19), and the latest advice on winter season preparedness from the [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.](https://www.health.gov.au/news/ahppc-statement-on-winter-season-preparedness) This aims to eliminate or minimise the risk of harm from COVID-19 as far as reasonably practicable, and to maximise learning and development, including through face-to-face learning where possible. |
| **National Guiding Principles of Management COVID-19 in Schools and ELC** | **Principle 1:** ELC services and schools are essential and should be the first to open and last to close wherever possible in outbreak situations, with face-to-face learning prioritised | **Principle 2:** Baseline public health measures continue to apply (such as hand washing, face masks, physical distancing, ventilation, staying home if unwell, and encouraging vaccination) | **Principle 3:** No vulnerable child is turned away (including localised school planning to ensure a minimum offering is available for these children)  | **Principle 4:** Responses to be proportionate and health risk-based (informed by health advice, practical implementation requirements, and the individual profile of different education settings) | **Principle 5:** Equip ELC services and schools to respond on the basis of public health advice and with support from public health authorities where required (including data collection and sharing between education and public health authorities)  | **Principle 6:** Wellbeing of children and education staff to be supported (including addressing workforce shortages wherever possible and consistent and timely communication)  |
| **Baseline public health measures for all schools** | The following measures will be in place in all CECG Schools. These measures will be reviewed from time to time based on advice from ACT Health.* **Vaccination -** All eligible students (ages 5 and over) and all staff are strongly encouraged to be up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination.
* **Household Contacts** – Staff and students are required to follow the [Public Health (Diagnosed People and Household Contacts) Emergency Direction 2022](https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-346/) when they are deemed a household contact. It is strongly recommended that a household contact works or studies from home where it is practical to do so. A household contact [must wear a face mask](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/restrictions/face-masks) in any indoor setting that is not their own home, if they are aged 12 years and over. A household contact [must wear a face mask](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/restrictions/face-masks) in any indoor setting that is not their own home, if they are aged 12 years and over. Only students in Years 7 to 12 will be required to wear a mask when attending school. Mask wearing for students in primary schools is at the discretion of the student and their parents/carers, and is not recommended for children in Pre School to Year 2. Where a student attends school they must undertake a COVID test in the 24 hours prior to returning to school and then every 48 hours if ongoing attendance is required and may only attend a school if they have no symptoms
* **Check in requirement –** Check in is not required for staff and visitors to school and ELC sites, but QR codes should continue to be displayed for voluntary use by staff and visitors, as well as by community hirers who may still be legally required to use the Check in CBR app. Timely and accurate student attendance (roll marking) is to be completed for each class. In addition, parents attending permitted activities which are held indoors and during school hours should use use appropriate sign in procedures to ensure contact can be made should a significant COVID-19 exposure occur onsite.
* **Physical distancing -** Physical distancing should be maintained on school sites where possible *(Principle 2)*. Density quotients no longer apply.
* **Staying home when sick and hygiene requirements -** Staff, students and visitors must not attend school or ELC sites if they are unwell and will be sent home if they any have symptoms of COVID-19. All staff, visitors and students should at all times maintain appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene *(Principle 2)*.
* **Minimising mixing -** Cohorting is not required however where learning cohorts are mixed, schools and ELCs should consider additional mitigations such as minimising the length of time or the number of students or staff participating in organised activities together. The usual COVID smart behaviours should be encouraged, including physical distancing where possible, practicing good hand and respiratory hygiene practices, and staying home if unwell.
* **Masks -** Staff, students and visitors are not required to wear masks on school or ELC sites, though are **strongly** encouraged to do so. Children in preschool to Year 2 should not wear masks as they are likely to be worn incorrectly and may present a choking hazard *(Principle 2).*
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| **Baseline public health measures for all schools continued** | * **Cleaning -** COVID-safe cleaning practices will be in place in line with the AHPPC endorsed[Information about cleaning and disinfection for schools](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2022/02/information-about-cleaning-and-disinfection-for-schools.pdf)*.* This includes routine daily cleaning with escalation to enhanced cleaning where cases have been identified. Enhanced cleaning can be done before or after school/pre-school and provides school/ELC communities with an additional layer of assurance.
* **Ventilation -** Ventilation systems should continue to be adjusted to increase the fresh air being supplied to classrooms that are connected to HVAC systems. Classrooms that are not connected to HVAC systems typically have external ventilation and split system AC units so the fresh air source can be readily controlled. Mechanical ventilation and outdoor areas for learning will continue to be used where appropriate, balanced against weather and temperature considerations *(Principle 2)*.
* **Rapid Antigen Tests -** Schools/ELCs will have access to Rapid Antigen Tests for distribution as needed. Staff and students who are symptomatic should not attend the school/ELC to collect a Rapid Antigen Test. Those staff and students are encouraged to use a Rapid Antigen Test (which can be purchssed at various retail locations) or access testing through an ACT Health testing facility *(Principles 4 and 5)*. It is recommended households retain a supply of tests to use as required.
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| **Support** | * **Supporting Students –** Schools/ELCs will continue to support learning from home for students who are medically vulnerable to COVID-19, which is supported by a medical certificate. All students continue to have access to school counsellors remotely or in person. Vulnerable children will continue to have access to onsite supervision during periods of school closures *(Principles 3 and 6).*
* **Supporting Staff –** School/ELC staff are essential workers. All staff have access to wellbeing supports. Teachers/Staff will not be required to deliver remote and on site learning to the same class at the same time *(Principle 6)*.
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| **Responding to COVID-19 exposures onsite** | * **Notification -** Schools/ELCs will continue to receive notifications of positive cases from staff and students. Staff and students who are either diagnosed with COVID-19 or have had an exposure to COVID-19 should comply with the public health advice relating to notification, isolation and quarantine requirements *(Principle 5)*.
* **Communication -** Schools will communicate to their school communities when a signficant number of cases are recorded. Staff and students who are affected should comply with the appropriate public health advice, dependent on their exposure level. Staff and students who are not directly affected can continue attending school unless they have symptoms of COVID-19 *(Principle 4)*.
* **Additional COVID-19 Safety Measures -** CECG will continue to routinely liaise with ACT Health regarding situations where there are high numbers of COVID positive cases in schools/ELCs. Additional risk mitigation strategies may be implemented, based on ACT Health advice (see below) *(Principles 4 and 5)*.
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| **Additional COVID-19 safety measures**  | When there are high numbers of COVID-19 exposures at a CECG School/ELC, consideration will be given to whether any of the following additional COVID-19 Safety Measures should be reintroduced, with authorisation by the CECG COVID Response Team. These measures aim to limit the potential for further transmission and will generally be limited to a short period of time (e.g. 1 to 2 weeks). * **Additional testing recommendations -** Such as to test before returning to school/ELCand again in 48 hours.
* **Masks -** Staff, students in Years 7-12, and visitors may be asked to wear a mask when indoors and when physical distancing of 1.5 meters cannot be maintained.
* **Limiting parents and carers on site -** All parent/carers meetings should be remote – if outside of school hours parents/carers may attend on site, by exception.
* **Cohorting -** It may be necessary to cohort a particular class or year level so that they do not mix with other students or staff across the school/ELC.
* **School closures -** This measure will be limited as much as possible, however may also be enacted in response to workforce shortages arising from COVID-19.
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| **Facilities & hire** | **School canteens and uniform stores** can operate online and counter sales, with COVID safety business checklists in place. * **P&F/Council/School or ELC Community run fundraisers** can go ahead on school sites with appropriate risk mitigation measures and COVID Safety Plans in place. There should only be a minimum number of volunteers (visitors to the school/ELC) necessary to coordinate fundraisers on site during school/ELC hours. Where fundraisers involve other visitors, they should be held outside of school/ELC opening hours and must comply with the [COVID Safe Events Guidance.](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/restrictions/covid-safe-events)

**Hiring a school/ELC facility** - For a hirer to access a school/ELC facility they must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan; including adhering to physical distancing and hygiene requirements. Private events held at a school/ELC facility must also comply with any applicable public health restrictions for events. |
| **Close Household Contacts** | Household contacts will not have to quarantine if they have no COVID-19 symptoms but will need to comply with the following requirements for seven days from the time the first person in their household tests positive for COVID‑19:* Advise ACT Health that they are a household contact by completing a COVID-19 [online declaration form](https://actredcap.act.gov.au/redcap/surveys/?s=ENA34MC3TR).
* Wear a face mask in all indoor spaces when outside of the home, if aged 12 years and over.
* Students study from home, where it is practical to do so
* Parents/Carers notify the school of their child being a household contact
* If it is not practical to study from home, students must undertake COVID-19 testing and return a negative result in the 24 hours prior to returning to school and then every 48 hours if ongoing attendance is required
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| **Visitors** | **Parents and carers on school sites*** Parents and carers can attend outdoor areas of the school/ELC site for drop off and pick up, or when attending a permitted activity (see below).
* Preference is for all parent/carers meetings to be remote if possible
* Groups of parents can meet on school site but these meeting must be held outside of school hours – again preference would be for meeting to be held remotely
* Parents and carers must follow COVID smart measures (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell)

**CECG staff on school/ELC sites*** CECG staff who provide a support service are permitted to enter the school site where the attendance is essential and it has been agreed to by the School Principal/ELC Director. This includes allied health staff and other school support services.
* All staff must follow COVID safe measures (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell)

**Essential visitors, volunteers, and VIPs on school/ELC sites** * Essential visitors are permitted to attend school/ELC sites. Essential visitors are considered to be anyone who provides a critical service to a student or staff member, including allied health. Student placements are also allowed.
* Volunteers are permitted to attend school sites. Volunteers are considered to be anyone who provides a critical service to the school community, including canteen and uniform stores, parent volunteers, and P&F/Council run fundraisers.
* VIPs visits are only permoittded by exception.
* Essential visitors, volunteers and VIPs must follow COVID safe measures (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell)
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| **Extra-Curricular - Activities** | * Any school activity that **takes a teacher off class or out of the school** should not proceed until further notice and where possible be deferred to Term Four. This includes:
	+ Overnight camps
	+ Local (day) excursions
* Any extra-curricular activities that can limit teachers' availability to be placed on class and/or increase teacher workload should also be reconsidered. For example:
	+ Whole school musical
	+ Eisteddfods
	+ Public speaking
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| **Extra-Curricular – Activities continued** | * Information nights can be conducted where held outside school hours.
* School assemblies can be conducted although parents/carers are not able to attend.
* School sporting team training and participation in community and interschool sporting competitions can be conducted.
* Parents and carers are not permitted to attend (during school hours) activites and after hours can only attend such activities where they are outdoors, outside of school/ELC hours, or ticketed. Parents and carers must must follow COVID smart measures at all times on school/ELC sites (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell). Events on school ELC/ sites that involve the general public can only be held outside of school/ELC opening hours, must have a COVID Safety Plan in Place, and must comply with the [COVID Safe Events Guidance.](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/restrictions/covid-safe-events)
* Sporting activities such as school sporting team training and participation in community sporting competitions (weekend sport), gala days and pathway events may be conducted where there are sufficient staff to attend the event and the staff attendance does not have a negative impact on the ability of a school to continue its normal operations.
* International excursions are not permitted at this time.
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| **Academic Assessments** | * Academic assessments will be undertaken as per normal processes as much as is practicable.
* ACT Secondary Colleges will keep students updated on any changes to the Year 10, 11 and 12 assessment processes.
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