



28 January 2022

Dear Parents and Families

### **Re: Welcome Back to School**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Principal of Centralian College. I look forward to meeting you at a time when we do not have the current restrictions. On behalf of all staff, I would like to express our excitement at welcoming all students back to Centralian Senior College.

A special welcome to our new students and families who join the Centralian Senior College family in 2022. You may feel like me a little lost or overwhelmed at the start of the year but I would like to reassure you that all Centralian Senior College staff are here to help and support your transition.

Our highest priority as we attend to our core business of teaching and learning is keeping our young people and educators safe by managing our COVID-19 protocols as much as we can. This letter provides some information about how we will achieve this at the College.

I want to reassure families that we will support all students to access ongoing education in 2022. Face to face learning remains the most effective and preferred option to support young people to be their best.

In line with the Northern Territory's return to school plan, we have preventative measures in place to keep our learning environments as safe as possible for students, families and our staff. Below are some of the measures that we need your help and support with to keep our community safe.

### **Unwell children**

At this challenging time, it is critical that children who are unwell stay at home. Whilst I believe in the past it was not uncommon for children to come to school with a cough, runny nose or sore throat. Unfortunately, in this current climate this will not be acceptable. If students come to school unwell or become unwell while at school, we will need to contact you and appreciate a speedy pick-up. I know you will all understand this action is a critical measure to help keep our community safe.

We ask that your child is then tested and if the results are COVID positive, we ask that you follow all guidelines from Health and then let us know, so that we can identify and let all of our families know that there has been a positive case in our community. We will not release the identity of any positive cases.

Attached is the COVID-19 Response Flowchart that outlines how we will response to positive cases.

### **Mask wearing**

#### *Secondary*

We expect that all visitors to the school wear a mask.

In line with the Territory wide mask mandate, secondary students are required to wear a mask while inside at school, and we encourage them to wear their mask outside as well. Remember that masks do not last all day, so consider how you will provide your young person with clean masks to put on during the day.

Our staff will be wearing masks expect while educating.

## **Check-in and sanitise**

Please continue to 'check-in' using the Territory Check-In app. We have QR codes at the main entry and reception to make it easy to check-in. Please also sanitise or wash your hands as you arrive on our site. We will have sanitiser in classrooms and soap in bathrooms to support good hand hygiene.

## **Dropping off and picking up students**

We will be reducing visitors to the school as much as possible and appreciate your support in advance.

Please note that if the current Alice Springs lockout arrangements are continued beyond Sunday 30 January, we expect that non-vaccinated parents will not be able to come on to the school site. We will provide an update if this is the case.

## **Stopping the spread on surfaces**

We can also reduce the risk of spreading infection by bringing our own materials to school. Please remind your young person to bring their own school issued laptop to school and, where possible, a refillable water bottle. Shared laptops and water bubblers will be available, but the less we rely on these items, the better we can stop the spread.

## **Vaccinations**

The health advice has consistently indicated that vaccination is one of the most effective measures we have available to us to limit the spread and reduce the severity of COVID infection. Vaccinations are now available for children from 5 years and up and we encourage you to get your children vaccinated as soon as possible. You can book a vaccination through your GP, Congress or through the NT Department of Health on <https://covid19appointment.nt.gov.au/vaccinate#/>.

All of our staff are vaccinated as per the department of Health directive.

Included with this letter is a fact sheet that overviews the range of preventative measures that we have in place. I have also included the COVID-19 Response Flowchart so that you understand how we will respond if there is a positive case. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 89585000.

We understand this is not the usual start back to our school year, but we need to respond appropriately to ensure staff and students are kept as safe as possible. We will continue to provide you with ongoing updates.

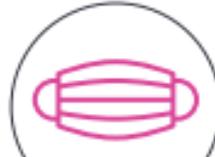
Yours Sincerely

Joanne Alford

Principal

# Keeping you safe at school during COVID-19

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

 <p>All educators are vaccinated</p>	 <p>Students, children and staff to stay home if unwell</p>	 <p>Schools provided cleaning grants to adhere to additional preventative measures in line with health advice</p>	 <p>Hand sanitiser provided</p>
 <p>Health and hygiene measures in place and explained to students and young children through learning</p>	 <p>Registered teachers ready to support schools in the event of increased staff absenteeism</p>	 <p>Students from Year 7 to Year 12 to wear masks when mandate in place. All other students highly recommended.</p>	 <p>Educators wear masks when mandate in place, with exception of when delivering instructional teaching</p>
 <p>All eligible students encouraged to get vaccinated</p>	 <p>All visitors must check in with the Territory Check-in App</p>	 <p>Maximise air flow in classrooms through range of solutions recommended by DIPL and Health</p>	 <p>Planning to prioritise interactions in smaller groups or a year level</p>
 <p>Learning packs (online and printed) developed and ready to use</p>	 <p>Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) procedures based on health advice</p>	 <p>Risk assessments in place to support extra curricular learning activities to continue</p>	 <p>Ready to respond to COVID-19 transmission in schools</p>

[pandemicportal.education.nt.gov.au](https://pandemicportal.education.nt.gov.au)

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