

Friday 11 February 2022

Test to Stay Trial for Students

Dear parents and caregivers,

Our school will be taking part in a trial of rapid antigen 'test to stay' for children who are classroom contacts of someone with COVID-19 from week 3.

Why is this trial happening, and why in our school?

The intention of the trial is to increase overall safety at school by identifying positive COVID-19 cases before students come to school.

Experience in other states suggests practical challenges interfere with the effective use of RATs for daily student testing. To understand how this approach works in practice, SA Health is supporting the Department for Education to conduct this trial across all education sectors.

The trial will occur in special schools, disability units, Centres for Deaf and Hearing Impaired, and schools in the Mid Murray District Council Local Government Area (LGA).

All of Catholic Education SA's special schools and units are included in the trial.

Evaluation of the trial will take place after 4 weeks. A decision about whether the trial will be continued or expanded will be made once the evaluation is completed.

What happens now?

At the moment, if your child is in a classroom with someone who tests positive to COVID-19, you will be notified that they are a classroom contact and encouraged to keep sending your child to school if they don't have any symptoms.

As part of the trial, from next week you will have the option to receive a 7-day supply of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for your child if they are a classroom contact. The RATs should be used to test your child before school for 7 days following their exposure to COVID-19.

The trial is optional – you do not have to take part. If your family chooses not to take part, your child can continue attending school under the classroom contact rules.

If your child becomes a classroom contact, we will let you know what to do and what is required if you would like to take part in the trial.

Should you have any questions in relation to the trial, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Cathy Sires | Principal