



Tuesday 25 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year, an exciting time as our students start or return to their school journey. As a school, I would like to share how we are building on our experiences of the last 2 years to continue to safeguard our school community while keeping our school open, where we know the best learning happens.

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and students in Year 7 and above and strongly recommended for all primary students.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or students starting at a new school.
- We will continue to use effective practices for hygiene, enhanced cleaning, maximise air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.
- Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, with a staggered pick-up to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.

Pick up procedures

Main gate: 3.10pm Kindergarten (2.30pm from 4 to 11 February)
3:15pm Year 5

Tennis Court Gate: 3:10pm Year 1
3:15pm Year 6

Bottom Gate: 3:10pm Year 2

Top Gate: 3:10pm Year 3
3:15pm Year 4

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.

Rapid antigen testing

We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

How and when do I pick up the RAT kits?

At this stage the school has received a delivery of RAT tests for the first two weeks, 4 per student. The RAT tests can be collected from the school on Thursday 27 January from 10am to 3pm. Tables will be set up, alphabetically per surname, along the front fence of the carpark. Please do not enter the school, line up accordingly and physical distance. If you are unable to collect your tests on this day an alternative date will be advised but please note it will be for a limited time.

Administering RAT tests

Term 1, Week 2

Kindergarten:

- On the morning students will be at school for the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment (1, 2 or 3 February)
- On the morning of Friday 4 February, their first day of school.

Years 1-6

- On the morning of Tuesday 1 February and Thursday 3 February.

Term 1, Weeks 3 to Week 5

- Every Monday and Wednesday morning.

Additional information

- School staff will not be administering the rapid antigen tests to students.
- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 4 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school.

- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT result, they need to:
 - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
 - notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible
 - follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days.

Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

Unwell at school

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative and they are displaying no symptoms OR they are diagnosed as another condition such as hayfever, the student or staff member can return to school.

What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Use of surgical masks

All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors.

No vented or cloth masks should be worn.

Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors.

Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.

For more information, refer to [Face masks in NSW](#).

Visitors on school sites and vaccinations

No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or students starting at a new school.
- Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops and canteens must be fully vaccinated.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students must be fully vaccinated.

All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) to book an appointment near you.

Other key measures

Ventilation

We will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines that natural ventilation is the most effective measure so we will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows.

This approach is strongly supported by expert advice. Where natural ventilation is not sufficient, mechanical ventilation and/or air purification will be used and we will continue to use outdoor settings where possible.

Air purifiers have been provided to schools as a supplementary measure to support common areas in schools and can be deployed at the principal's discretion. These purifiers could be located in areas where high levels of student and staff mixing occurs, such as staffrooms, internal canteens, student centres and music rooms.

Cleaning

We continue to have enhanced cleaning focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas.

Physical distancing

We will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and maintain 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.

Canteen

The school canteen will open on Monday 7 February. There will be no over the counter sales, online ordering only for recess and lunch.

Invitation to a Parent Webinar

To welcome you and our students back to school and to share more detailed guidance about the settings for Term 1, we will be holding a parent webinar on **Friday 28 January, from 5pm to 5.45pm.**

The link to join is: <https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/69367860525?pwd=ZnYwN096WFN4ckYwWExHeVZwRzRMQT09>
Password: 2022

During the webinar we will outline our school's plan and cover many of the things you will need to know for the return of school in Term 1 2022, including testing, masks, vaccinations, ventilation, visitor protocols and potential learning from home arrangements.

If you can't make the webinar, we will share the PowerPoint slides on the school website: <https://lindfielde-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

We look forward to connecting with you at the parent webinar.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

Diane Read
Principal

www.lindfielde-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Lindfield East Public School

90 Tryon Road East Lindfield NSW 2070 T 9416 1955 E lindfielde-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au