

18 October, 2022

Dear Parents and Parent Liaisons,

Re: COVID-19 and Asthma Update

You may be aware that the Victorian Government has announced changes to the COVID-19 isolation requirements.

This means that the mandatory orders around isolation for people with COVID-19 have ended and instead we move to health advice and recommendations for people with COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms.

Our school will continue to adhere to the Department of Health's recommendations to ensure that our school remains a safe environment for our staff and students.

The Department of Health **strongly recommends** that students and school staff:

- who test positive to COVID-19 stay home and isolate for 5 days and do not attend school after 5 days if they are still symptomatic
- who are symptomatic but have not tested positive not attend school. This does not include students with pre-existing conditions such as hay fever.

Parents and carers are recommended to continue to report their child having COVID-19 to both the school and the Department of Health.

We will, however, no longer report occurrences of positive cases to the school community or continue to receive and distribute Rapid Antigen Testing kits.

We ask parents and carers to continue to remain vigilant in preventing COVID-19 transmission. Any student who is unwell should continue to remain at home. This is about keeping students healthy and well in our school and reducing the spread of both COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

Parents and carers will be contacted if their child shows symptoms while at school.

Students who wish to wear a mask should continue to do so.

To keep our school as safe as possible, we will also continue to use COVID-19 prevention measures.

Thunderstorm Asthma and Hay Fever update:

Spring has well and truly sprung, bringing with it an increased risk of seasonal asthma, hay fever and epidemic thunderstorm asthma.

Increased grass pollen levels, which occur from October to December, are the biggest contributor to morbidity within our School.

Alphington Grammar School will implement appropriate measures to ensure our School community remains safe during this time. All staff are trained in Asthma First Aid, and utilisation of the Vic Emergency App to receive thunderstorm warnings is a priority for the Health Centre.

If your child has a history of asthma, current diagnosis of asthma, or has poorly treated asthma or hay fever, it is imperative they are appropriately managed prior to attending School, by ensuring the following:

- Ensure all Asthma and Allergy Action Plans are up to date
- Taking appropriate asthma preventer medication where possible
- Providing antihistamine medication to School Nurse where possible
- Ensuring all Asthma Inhalers and spacers are accessible to the student at all times

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our school community safe and well. If you have any matters you seek clarification on, please be in contact with me at jor@ags.vic.edu.au or ask to be put through to School Nurse via reception.

Yours Sincerely,



Jessica Orreal
School Nurse