

Prairiewood High School



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Return to School Organisation and COVID-19 Considerations - Term 1 2022

Dear parents and carers,

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

Return to school dates

Years 7, 11 & 12 return to school Tuesday 1 February, Years 8, 9 & 10 return Wednesday 2 February. 1/2/22 - Year 7 meet in the Hall, Yr 12 basket ball courts (wet weather IA/TAS area), Yr 11 COLA outside Library. 2/2/22 - Year 8 meet in the COLA outside library, Yr 9 basket ball courts (wet weather IA/TAS area), Yr 10 in the hall.

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health.

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. Masks will be provided by the school if required.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come onto a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Year 7 or students starting at a new school. Parents will be able to stay for the first part of the assembly on day 1.
- Students will be kept in their stage groups on school grounds, with staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access, to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts. See below for new bell times.
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

Rapid antigen testing

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. The 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?

- Parents and carers **may pick up RAT kits on Friday 28 January from 10am – 2.30pm and Monday 31 January from 9.00am – 1.30pm from the PHS hall.** We encourage you to park in Stockland, as the Stockland gate will be open to enable easy access to the hall to pick up the kits.
- Parents and carers should wear a mask before entering the school and leave the pick-up location immediately after picking up their packs of RAT kits.

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 RATs to be used twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Further RATs will be distributed at school when classes resume.
- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT test, they need to:
 - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
 - notify the school via email: prairiewoo-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or call 9725 5444 of the positive RAT or PCR test 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, 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. If required, surgical masks will be available at schools.

Secondary school students will be provided with surgical masks as a backup when needed, which they are required to wear 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 Year 7 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. Use [Service Finder \(healthdirect.gov.au\)](http://healthdirect.gov.au) to book an appointment near you.

Uniform Orders

All uniform orders are to be done via the attached order form and emailed back to the school on prairiewoo-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au. We request payment via the website and please write the receipt number on the order form. We will endeavour to fill all paid orders and contact you to pick up the pack prior to student return dates. The website has sizing guides and more information: [Uniforms](#)

Other key measures

Ventilation, cleaning & physical distancing

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.

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

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

New Bell Times

We have adjusted the bell times from those we had in 2021 but continue to stagger start, finish and break times as much as possible. Please assist us by ensuring that your child is at school and ready to start at least 5 min before the listed start times below. Please note the slightly altered finish times, to minimise mingling at exit points.

Bell Times Term 1 2022

	Yr 7 & 8	Yr 9 & 10	Yr 11 & 12	Special Education
The School Day	8.30am-2.20pm	8.40am - 2.30pm	8.30am -2.30pm	8.30am -2.30pm
Recess	10.30-11.00am	11.00 -11.30am	10.30-11.00am	10.30-11.00am
Lunch	12.30 – 1.00pm	1.00 -1.30pm	12.30 – 1.00pm	1.00 -1.30pm

The only exceptions to these times will be for Year 7 & 8 students who do scripture on Tue Week A, who will finish at 2.30pm not 2.20pm. On Friday Week B Yr 7 & 8 will finish at 12.40pm, Yr 9 & 10 will finish at 12.50pm and Yr 11 & Special Ed will finish at 1pm. This is consistent with 2021 finish times for students.

Invitation to a virtual meeting

You are welcome to join the P & C Meeting on 9 February at 6.30pm on zoom. Details will be sent via Skoolbag so ensure that you have [downloaded the app](#) .

During the meeting, we will outline our school's plan and cover many of the things you will need to know about including testing, masks, vaccinations, ventilation, visitor protocols and potential learning from home arrangements.

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

Kind regards,



Belinda Giudice
Principal