



DARAMALAN COLLEGE  
1962 – 2022

## Distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests, Covid-19 Notification Protocols and Term 1 events

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome our Year 7 students onsite this morning and we look forward to all Year groups returning to school tomorrow. Students will meet in the following quads tomorrow morning and Pastoral Leaders and Pastoral Tutors will be on hand to assist students.

**Year 7:** McCowage Hall, **Year 8:** Lysaught, **Year 9:** Dempsey, **Year 10:** McMahon, **Year 11/12:** Littleton



### Rapid Antigen Tests

As I mentioned in my communication last week, the ACT Government has committed to providing two Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to all students and school staff each week for the first 4 weeks of Term 1. I am pleased to let you know that Daramalan's allocation for the first week has arrived.

### Distribution of tests:

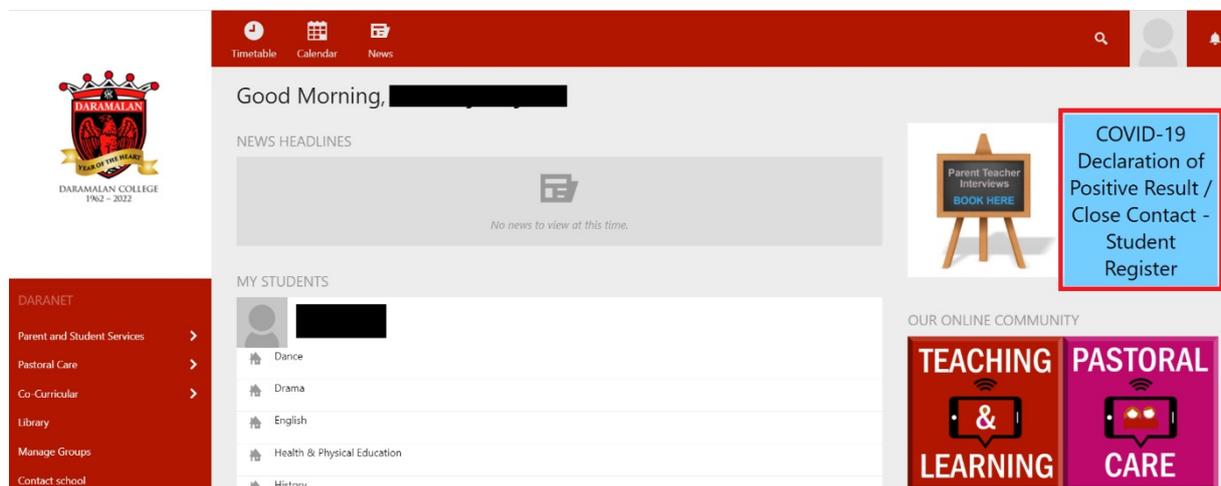
- All students will receive a sealed envelope containing their allocation of 2 tests on Tuesday 1 February during Period 6 from their PT teacher. Year 11 and 12 students who have a study line at this time must remain onsite for this lesson so as to receive their allocation from the PT teacher. They will not be able to access their tests early.
- A list will be kept by the PT teacher of those students who have received their allocation. Students who are absent on Tuesday will be able to collect their envelope/tests from the High School Office upon their return to school.
- Students will be given clear instructions that the tests are to be taken home and given to their parents/carers as soon as they get home. They will also be reminded that the tests need to be treated with care and respect.
- I would urge you to have a similar discussion with your student this evening prior to them receiving

the tests tomorrow afternoon.

- As I mentioned last week, the use of these tests is not compulsory, as was indicated by the Education Minister, and the College will not be asking families to report a negative test result. These tests form one part of the overall Covid-safety measures that are in place at the College.
- A negative test result is not required to be provided prior to students attending school.
- At no time will College staff perform a RAT on a student. If a student is unwell, they will be asked to attend First Aid, where their parent/carer will be contacted and asked to collect them. The decision as to whether the student should be tested for Covid-19 lies with their parent/carer based on the current Health guidelines.

#### Notification of a Positive Test result or Close Contact:

- Under the current ACT Health Guidelines, all positive test results must be reported to ACT Health through their online form which can be accessed [HERE](#).
- For students who reside in NSW, the same reporting mechanisms for a positive test result are in place through Service NSW and can be accessed [HERE](#).
- Families are also asked to notify the College using the secure [form](#) that can be found on Daranet as per the following image if their student tests positive or is deemed a close contact and is required to isolate. These notifications will form the basis of our contact tracing and the school-based response that we will need to have in place under the current Health Guidelines. They will also enable our Pastoral Leaders to best support your family during their isolation period.



- A requirement of the provision of the tests is that the College reports the number of positive Covid-19 cases notified to the school on a weekly basis. At no time will specific student or family details be provided.
- Students who are isolating, and who are well enough to do so, will be able to access their learning through Daranet and their class OneNotes. Class Learning Planners will provide at least two weeks of learning activities and planning and will provide students at home with the required advice regarding their learning until they are able to return to school. Teachers are not expected to deliver both in-person classes and online meetings outside of the content provided through OneNotes, Daranet and the Learning Planners.

#### Informing families of a positive case:

- In line with the revised reporting requirements in the ACT, schools will not be listed as exposure sites as they were in 2021.
- Where a Covid-positive case at Daramalan leads to students and staff being assessed as at risk of exposure, families of those impacted (year group cohorts), will be informed via email about what they are required to do under ACT Health requirements.
- If the exposure is considered low risk, staff and students will continue to be able to attend school while closely monitoring for Covid symptoms.

#### Students with Covid-19 Symptoms

- Please keep your student at home when they are sick or unwell.
- Students who are unwell must not attend the College and should stay home and are encouraged to get tested using the RAT provided.

- While at school, students experiencing symptoms compatible with Covid-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) will be directed to First Aid and will be isolated with appropriate supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible.

#### **Mask wearing:**

- Under the current health orders, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for all staff and students while indoors. This includes corridor areas and the canteen. Students are also required to wear masks on public transport including school buses. Masks are not required outdoors.
- If your student is unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons, please contact your student's Pastoral Leader, as well as the relevant Assistant Principal Pastoral Care.
- Students will need to bring their own masks and should bring several to use as required throughout the day. Guidance on appropriate face masks and their correct use can be found [HERE](#)

#### **Term 1 Events and Activities:**

Unfortunately, the current Health Guidelines for School are such that many of the events that would usually be held in Term 1 have needed to be either cancelled, postponed or their format adjusted to online. The College website calendar is currently being updated to reflect these changes:

#### **Week 1**

Thursday 3 Feb: **Year 7 Parents Information Evening** – Online event. The Link for this event will be sent to Year 7 families in the coming days.

#### **Week 2**

Monday 7 Feb: **Year 7 Digital Readiness Day 1**. Year 7 students are required to have their device for this day.

Wednesday 9 Feb: **Year 7 Allwell Testing** – Postponed

Friday 11 Feb: **House Swimming Carnival** – Cancelled- Day 2 timetable will operate

#### **Week 3**

Monday 14 Feb and Tuesday 15 Feb: **Year 7 Parent Functions** – Cancelled

Tuesday 15 Feb: **Opening Mass and Commissioning of Student Leaders** – Online Live Event

#### **Week 4**

Monday 21 Feb – Friday 25 Feb: **Year 7 Camp** – Postponed until Term 2

Monday 21 Feb: **Year 11 Reflection Day** – McCowage Hall as scheduled

Thursday 24 Feb: **Year 11 2021 Awards Ceremony** – As calendared, guest and families online

Thursday 24 Feb: **Day 2 Year 7 Digital Readiness Course** (TBC)

Friday 25 Feb: **Year 7 Allwell** (TBC)

#### **Week 6**

Thursday 10 Mar: **Family Mass** – Postponed

Friday 11 Mar: **Athletics Carnival** – Cancelled- Day 6 timetable will operate

#### **Week 8**

Thursday 24 Mar: **College Open Evening** – Normal format cancelled

Friday 25 Mar: **House Cross Country** – Normal format cancelled

#### **Week 10**

Monday 4 April: **Year 9 Parent Evening** – Online event

Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 April: **Parent Teacher Interviews** – Online meetings

I once again thank our families for their continued support as we work to having all of our students back to face-to-face learning in this our 60th anniversary year.

Best wishes  
Rachel Davies  
Principal