



Mount Druitt Public School

51 Belmore Avenue, Mount Druitt, 2770 NSW

Telephone: 9625 9036 Facsimile: 9832 2453

EMAIL: mtdruitt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

CHANGES TO SCHOOL SETTINGS

28/02/2022

Dear parents and carers

A big thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our school and students during the pandemic – especially prioritising safety and learning.

The Premier and Minister for Education have announced changes to school settings for the remainder of Term 1. These updated settings were developed in close consultation with NSW Health and key stakeholders to ensure we continue to keep our schools open for learning, while keeping up with changing community settings.

The updated settings include:

- From Monday 28 February, we will move to symptomatic testing. Tests are to be used at your discretion such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. Our school can provide each student and staff member with 8 tests per student and staff in schools or 20 tests per student and staff in schools for specific purposes (SSPs) or support classes. Please contact your child's teacher via Class Dojo if you wish to have them sent home with your child. Alternatively, you can come to the front office to collect them.
- Beyond that, students and staff can access PCR tests or buy their own rapid antigen tests as these are now readily available and accessible in the community.
- Masks will continue to be required indoors for all school staff, volunteers and visitors including parents and carers in primary schools until Friday 4 March. This means that from Monday 7 March, masks will no longer be mandatory for all staff. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so.
- In line with community settings, workers who support our students with disability in SSPs, support units and some mainstream classrooms will be required to wear masks while working with students.
- From Monday 28 February, visitors can be allowed back on school sites regardless of their vaccination status. Our school will consider activities such as assemblies, parent-teacher meetings and other gatherings in the coming days. We will let you know if these can proceed with our school in a COVID-smart way. All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including vaccinations, maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

A reminder that your child may receive a nasal swab or saliva rapid antigen testing kits in the coming weeks. 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 \(TGA\) External link](#) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

Students using saliva testing kits must not eat or drink for 30 minutes before taking the saliva RAT, to give more accurate results.

Cohorting no longer required

As of Monday 28 February, students will no longer be required to be kept in year groups or other cohorts and we will no longer be required to use staggered start or finish times. We will continue to use our other COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events.

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

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



Dianne Uthmeyer

Rel Principal

Mount Druitt Public School