

Thursday 27th January 2022

Dear parents and carers

(And AVPS Staff)

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a relaxing holiday break.

As we prepare to welcome students back to our school next week, the Victorian Government has announced some new measures for the beginning of the 2022 school year across all Victorian schools.

Free rapid antigen tests

Free rapid antigen tests will be available for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 2022.

Twice-a-week testing will be strongly recommended for both students and staff.

The department will supply the tests to our school.

The department will distribute all kits to schools as early as possible. Test kits will be available for collection from Friday. Details outlining collection times and location will be sent in a separate Compass alert on Thursday 27th January.

Students and staff will do the tests at home; they only need to report their result if it is COVID-positive. They must report a COVID-positive result to:

- the school by phone or the [RA Test Portal](#); this is so the school can support them, record that they will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that they should monitor for symptoms
- the Department of Health via the [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#) or call centre on [1800 675 398](#).

Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, including a how-to video translated into 33 languages, is [available online](#).

Vaccination requirements

Parents and carers must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception (with limited exceptions) to enter school buildings.

All staff working in schools need to be fully vaccinated or have a verified medical exception.

COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. If your child has not yet had their first dose, please try to organise this before term begins. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](#).

Ventilation

We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection. We have received air purifiers, which will be used around the school as an added safety measure.

Vital COVIDSafe steps

Hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue wherever possible in Term 1.

Staggered Arrival and Departure Arrangements and Gate Allocations

Staggered arrival and departure arrangements and gate allocations to Units will continue to be implemented from the beginning of term 1, 2022. A separate communication will be sent before the end of the week, outlining details of these arrangements.

Staffing our school

I know many of you will have questions about what happens if your child's teacher gets COVID-19. We will be able to bring in extra teachers and other staff if we need them, and we will be doing everything that we can to make sure our school stays safe and open.

Other information about school operations

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program, run by Camp Australia will also restart on Monday 31st January. Parents/carers can log in and register through the parent portal, or smartphone app and start booking. Accessible here: <https://pp.campaustralia.com.au/account/register-contacts> or call **OSHC phone:** 0423 795 247, **Coordinator:** Dee Seneviratne.

Feel free to contact us to clarify any concerns you may have on 9370 6507 or ascot.vale.ps@education.vic.gov.au

There's no doubt that this term is going to be challenging for all of us, but we are also very excited to kick off the school year and welcome back all of our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Sue Osborne

Principal