

31 January 2022

Parent/Caregiver and Student Advice COVID-19 Symptoms for Students—Process and Procedures

We are aware that in the coming days, weeks, and indeed, months, it is likely that some students may display COVID-19 symptoms while at the College. As per previous communications, if your child displays any of these symptoms, we ask that they be kept at home and tested.

Common COVID Symptoms can include:

- fever (a temperature of 37.5°C or higher) or chills
- cough
- loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- tiredness (fatigue)
- runny or blocked nose
- shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)

What is the procedure for a student showing COVID-19 symptoms in a classroom or while on campus?

Their teacher will ask the student to go to the designated outside area adjacent to **Student Services**, where our satellite First Aid Officers are placed to care for and treat students. There will be an annex (cordoned off area) on the western side of the building for this purpose. If it is determined that the student needs to go home, we ask parents/caregivers to collect their children from **Gate 4 on Lawrie Street (next to the Uniform Shop)**.

Why have we created the additional space for First Aid near Student Services?

This approach is based on the need to minimise risks to students and staff and reduce the likelihood of the virus spreading. SA Health advice has also been to use outdoor spaces where possible and for staff to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing for their health and safety.

What if a student is experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms at recess or lunchtime?

We ask that the student attend Student Services and proceed to the 'drive thru'/sliding window on the western side of the building. There, the student will be met by a staff member who will call for a First Aid Officer to care for them. As mentioned above, if it is deemed that the student needs to go home, we ask parents/caregivers to collect their child from **Gate 4 on Lawrie Street** (next to the Uniform Shop).

What about general First Aid, e.g. needing a student's medication, a band-aid, ice pack, injured ankle etc.?

There will be no change to the current practice for students attending the Front Office First Aid Room. If these students, i.e. those not showing COVID-19 symptoms, are required to go home, parents/caregivers may pick up their child from the car park outside the Administration Office.

Student safety and privacy at the Student Services First Aid area

This area is cordoned off from students and general staff. In addition, the Annex will be enclosed to allow for student privacy while being cared for.

Student Services First Aid area during extreme weather

In extreme weather such as heat, rain, and storms, we will need to commandeer one of the Administration First Aid Offices. Students and staff will be advised in advance.

Other key points

- Students must wear face masks correctly when indoors and bring their masks to school daily
- If they do require a spare mask, they can get one from a classroom teacher
- Students are no longer allowed to collect masks from the Front Office or LEC Reception.
- If students show symptoms, parents/caregivers must monitor them, have them tested (if required), and only return to school when they are fully recovered and tested negative for COVID-19.
- If a student is positive for COVID-19, do adhere to the directions of SA Health regarding isolation and testing.

Masks collection, other than from the classroom

As mentioned above, the only place on campus where a student can collect a mask, other than a classroom teacher, is from **Student Services via the sliding window on the western side**. In the first instance, we ask that students bring their masks from home.

Exceptions from wearing a mask—inform Pastoral Teacher and/or Year Level Director (YLD)

A student is deemed exempt from wearing a mask under the SA Health guidelines if they have obtained an official exemption. Please inform their Pastoral Teacher and/or YLD by phone or email so that they may record this on SEQTA. In this way, all staff will be aware of the exemption and avoid any embarrassing situations.

The College would like to thank all parents/caregivers again for your patience and understanding as we adjust and provide the safest conditions possible at St Michael's College. Be assured that student and staff safety and care are our priority.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Williams

MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Deputy Principal Pastoral