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23 January 2022

## 2022 – Term 1 School Operational Information

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.

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

### 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 on a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- 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.
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.

### Rapid antigen testing

We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1.

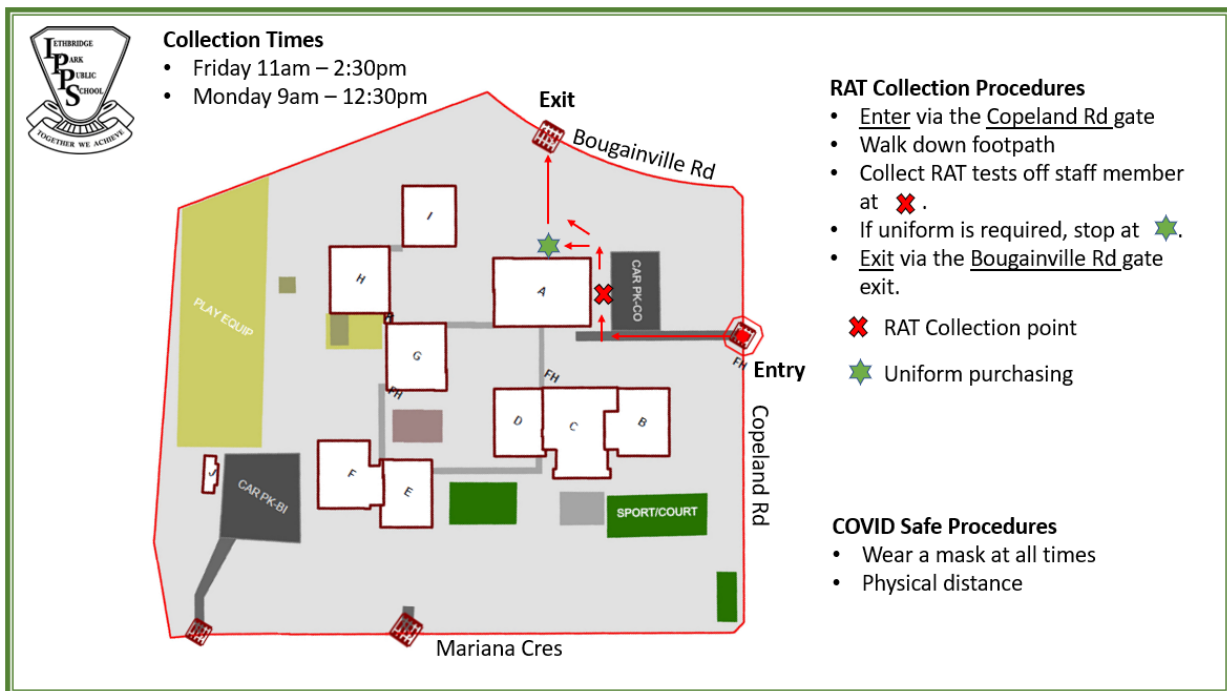
The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. 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 \(TGA\) External link](#) 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?

RAT kits will be distributed on:

**Friday 28 January between 11am and 2:30pm and:  
Monday 31 January between 9:00am and 12:30pm  
via the administration building**



When collecting the RAT kits, please follow the procedures below to ensure the safety of the whole community:

- Wear a mask whilst on the school grounds.
- Social distance at all times.
- Enter via the Copeland Rd front gate and walk down the path towards the administration building.
- You will be greeted by staff member. Please provide them with your surname.
- You will be handed RAT kits for your child/ren.
- Leave via the Bougainville Rd gate.

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 4 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school.
- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT test, they need to:
  - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW websiteExternal link](#) or [Service NSW appExternal link](#)
  - notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible
  - follow [NSW Health adviceExternal link](#) to isolate for 7 days.

Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

### Masks

All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors. Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks 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 NSWExternal link](#).

### 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 Kindergarten or 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. [Find a vaccination clinic](#)<sup>External link</sup> to book an appointment near you.

### **Other key measures**

#### Ventilation

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.

#### Cleaning

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

#### Physical distancing

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

#### Invitation to a virtual school assembly

To welcome you and our students back to school and to share more detailed guidance about the settings for Term 1, we will be posting information, videos and slideshows on our school website. The information will outline our school's plan and cover many of the things you will need to know for the return of school in Term 1 2022, including testing, masks, vaccinations, ventilation, visitor protocols and potential learning from home arrangements.

If you have any questions you would like answered, please email your questions to [lethbridpkp.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:lethbridpkp.school@det.nsw.edu.au) in advance and we will make sure we cover as many as possible.

Thank you again for your support during this school term.

Mr Garry Sheen  
Principal