



# COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Parents, Caregivers and Families

(20 July 2021)

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## **What is a close contact?**

A close contact is someone who has been close to a person with infectious COVID-19 and might have become infected with the COVID-19 virus. There are two ways to know if you are a close contact:

1. You get a text message or phone call from NSW Health contact tracers telling you that you are a close contact.
2. You see from the NSW Health website showing [COVID-19 case locations and venues of concern](#) that you have been to a close contact place on the day and time that an infectious person was there. If this relates to you, please call NSW Health on 1800 943 553.

## **What do I do if my child is identified as a close contact?**

If your child is identified by NSW Health contact tracers, they are to get tested and follow the written directions supplied by contact tracers and inform the school.

## **What is a casual contact?**

A casual contact is someone who has been near a person with infectious COVID-19 but who is a lower risk of getting COVID-19 than a close contact (ie. have visited the location but in a different area or later time). Ultimately NSW Health will decide who is a close contact and who is a casual contact based on each scenario.

## **How will I be notified if I am a casual contact?**

There are two ways to know if you are a casual contact:

1. You get a text message or phone call from NSW Health contact tracers telling you that you are a casual contact.
2. You see from the NSW Health website showing [COVID-19 case locations and venues of concern](#) that you have been to a casual contact place on the day and time that an infectious person was there. If this happens to you, please call NSW Health on 1800 943 553.

## **What do I do if my child is identified as a casual contact?**

If your child is identified by NSW Health contact tracers as a close or casual contact, they are to get tested and follow the written directions supplied by contact tracers and inform the school.

## **What do I do if my child self identifies as a close or casual contact?**

If your child has not been contacted by NSW Health contact tracers but believes they are a close or casual contact, you must contact NSW Health on 1800 943 553. If your child is then identified by NSW Health as a close or casual contact, they are to get tested and follow the written directions supplied by contact tracers and inform the school.

### **What is a secondary close contact?**

You are a secondary close contact if you:

- Live in the same house as a person who is a close contact of a person with COVID-19, and
- Have been in close physical proximity to a close contact (ie. friend or work colleague).

If you are a secondary contact, you need to get tested (even if you don't have symptoms) and self isolate at least until you and the close contact receive a negative result.

### **Will the school still open if there are COVID cases in the community?**

Unless otherwise advised by the NSW Government your school will remain open with all the required COVID safety protocols in place.

### **Will the school still open if there is a COVID case in the school?**

In such an event, the Director of Catholic Schools will determine if the school is required to close based on the advice from NSW Health. This will be communicated with you by the school.

### **What do I do if my child is medically vulnerable?**

As with any medical situation, if your child is too unwell to attend school, please notify the school and obtain a medical certificate for an extended absence.

### **Will learning materials be supplied to my child if they are required to self isolate?**

Yes, the school will work to minimise disruption to their learning through prepared learning materials.

### **Will learning materials be supplied if the school closes for deep cleaning?**

Students will be asked to complete homework tasks, continue working on assignments and review classwork should the school be closed for three days or less. Blended/online learning will commence after that time should an extended closure be required.

### **When will parents be allowed to visit schools again?**

Unfortunately, NSW Health has designated parents as non-essential visitors to schools as schools are currently rated Level 2 restrictions. They will be permitted when our schools are rated at a Level 1 risk. We anticipate this will occur after 30 July 2021.

### **What do I do if our family has travelled to a hotspot or lockdown region?**

If a student and their family has entered a lockdown region or identified hotspot area, they are then required to mirror the lockdown requirements of that area or self isolate for 14 days, whichever is the shortest. Learning materials will be supplied so students can learn from home.

### **What is the 'Source of truth' used by the school?**

The Catholic Schools Office works very closely with NSW Health and Catholic Schools NSW. These organisations are our **only sources of truth**. The school will only respond to direction from the Catholic Schools Office and NSW Health. We do not respond to information disseminated in the media or on social media. Should there be any COVID related impact on the school, we will communicate that with you using our normal communication methods.