



St Andrews Public School

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Tuesday 25th January, 2022

Collection of Rapid Antigen Test for Students

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our whole school community. I trust that you all had a wonderful break and special time with your family. Even though Covid-19 continues we are excited about the year ahead and looking forward to seeing all of our students and families return.

I want to assure you all that the health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority. We are working hard to develop plans in partnership with the Department of Education and NSW Health to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

One plan is for Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits to be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school. 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 <https://www.tga.gov.au/>. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

We expect to receive this order on Thursday. Providing that our kits arrive the following process has been organised. Students in Years 1-6 will be provided with free Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT's) this Friday and next Monday. Students in Kindergarten will be given their RAT kits at the end of their Best Start Assessments which occur from 1st-4th February.

Distribution of RAT kits for students in Years 1-6 will be in the school hall on **Friday 28th January between 10:00am and 5:00pm** and **Monday 31st January between 8:30am and 4:00pm** PLEASE NOTE: ONLY PARENTS OR CARERS TO COLLECT RAT kits. RAT kits will only be provided to parents/carers of their own child/ren in Years 1-6. On arrival please go to the school hall to receive your Rapid Antigen Test kits. Staff will be in the hall to greet you, mark off your child/ren's name and provide you with RATs (4 RATs per child) to enable you to monitor your child/children for 2 weeks.

As a school we are recommending that ALL students have their first test prior to starting school on Tuesday 2nd February Years 1-6 and 7th February for Kindergarten. Each week we ask parents/carers to administer the RATs **every Monday and Wednesday** until further notice. The next RATs will be provided for ALL students on Friday 11th February, 2022. Communication in relation to the distribution of these will be confirmed next week.

The school office will be attended from 10:00am Friday 28st January, 2022 to answer any enquiries you may have. Please pass this information on to any of our school community members that may not be on Facebook.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I will continue to update our school community over the coming weeks when needed and then return to my weekly updates.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Richard Batty (digital signature)

Mr Richard Batty