



Seabrook Primary School

5337

83-105 Point Cook Road, SEABROOK 3028

P.O. Box 1143 ALTONA MEADOWS 3028

Phone: 9395 1758

Email: seabrook.ps@education.vic.gov.au



Principal: Tania Hunt

31/01/22

Dear parents and carers

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

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

Free rapid antigen tests (RATs)

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. There are no prescribed days, however we will be encouraging testing on Mondays and Thursdays before school.

The department will supply the tests to our school. You do not need to buy your own.

Our first two weeks' supply has been delivered. A box of 5 tests will be provided for every student on their first day tomorrow (Tuesday 1st February).

Staff will be keeping a checklist to ensure that every student receives a RAT kit.

Parents are invited to collect their child/ren's RAT kits from outside the front office doors tomorrow between 10am-12pm. We are unable to facilitate collection earlier due to staff commitments with supporting the first day of school for new families.

Checklists and remaining RAT kits will then be handed out to students prior to dismissal tomorrow to ensure that every student receives a kit to take home in their schoolbag if the checklist indicates that their parent has not already collected one earlier.

If you have any concerns about the boxed test kit being sent home with your child and are not able to collect the kit yourself between 10am-12pm, please contact our office via seabrook.ps@education.vic.gov.au or 9395 1758. You may wish to speak to your child about storing the box safely in the schoolbag without breaking the clear sticker to open it before it reaches you. Teachers will advise the same when distributing the kits.

Students and staff 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](tel:1800675398).

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](#).

Face mask requirements

Students in Grade 3 and above must wear a face mask indoors at school and Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) programs, unless a lawful exception applies.

Grade 3-6 students must wear face masks indoors even if vaccinated. Students should bring a suitable mask to school - well fitted and cover the nose and mouth. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements.

Students are not required to wear masks outside, however they are strongly recommended if physical distancing cannot be maintained, even outdoors, when students are not undertaking physical exercise (for example; masks are strongly recommended when classes are held outside).

Students in Prep to Grade 2 are strongly recommended to wear a face mask indoors at school but this is not mandatory.

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 47 air purifiers, which will be used around the school as an added safety measure, and our school has sourced an additional 11 so we are now able to reassure our school community that every classroom, staff meeting space, and high-risk area has an air purifier to add to the other COVIDSafe measures in place.

Vital COVIDSafe steps

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

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

STUDENT ARRIVAL

Students should enter between 8:30am-8:50am. Enter from any gate. While our first bell will continue to sound at 8:40am to proceed into classrooms, a 20-minute arrival window from 8:30am will better disperse students and parents involved in drop-offs at the start of the school day.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

All students should be prepared to follow a plan arranged with their parents regarding meeting points with siblings and parents/carers collecting them.

3:00pm – Students with surnames A-K are dismissed from classrooms.

3:10pm – Students with surnames L-Z are dismissed from classrooms.

*Where siblings have differing surnames, advise the teacher to enable matching dismissal times.

*Prep teachers will identify a pick-up person matched to each student before dismissing from the room.

PARENTS/VISITORS ENTERING CLASSROOMS/BUILDINGS

We ask parents to continue to support our COVIDSafe measures:

1. Only come onsite if necessary, and minimise time in the grounds if your child's safety and wellbeing requires you to come onsite for drop-off or pick-up. Most primary students will be independent enough to follow arrangements to meet outside the school.
2. Maintain physical distancing >1.5m.
3. Adhere to face mask requirements. These must be worn indoors, and are recommended outdoors where distancing cannot be maintained.
4. REMAIN OUTSIDE CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS unless a staff member has provided specific approval. Parents approved for entry must QR code, be vaccinated, and wear a mask in accordance with the directions from the Department of Health.

CARPARKS

Traffic congestion can be a challenge for parents due to the large number of students at Seabrook Primary (approximately 950 this year). The local council provides for a Mintaro Way drop-off zone, and we have many pedestrian gates around the school.

The parent car park near OSHClub is a supervised drop-off zone a short time before school starts, but the parent carpark will not be available to parents after school for collecting students.

OSHClub

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHClub) program will also restart before- and after-school care on the first day of school. For further details, go to <https://www.oshclub.com.au/vic/seabrook-primary-school/>

ATTENDANCE

While there will understandably be some apprehension about returning to school, we are excited to be able to start the year in onsite learning mode, and we certainly hope we can remain this way.

All students are expected to attend onsite unless they are formally registered as being home-schooled. Parent preference is not an approved reason for students to be absent due to COVID-19.

Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning. Schools are not expected to provide a full remote learning program in these circumstances.

COMMUNICATIONS

A school **newsletter** will be provided fortnightly to the school community – with the first one due out this Wednesday.

Compass will be used for communications sent by the school to GROUPS.

Login details were sent via email to parents yesterday. A link to Compass is provided on our school website for ease of access, however many parents prefer to use the app.

Seesaw will be used for communications sent individual teachers to individual parents. This allows for parents to correspond directly with their child's teacher via instant messaging. (Similar to Facebook Messenger.) Seesaw has been used with great success in our Junior School, and this will be expanded right through to Grade 6 moving onwards. Information and family login details will be provided shortly.

Our school has an official **Facebook** page as a further avenue to share with the wider adult community. Search for "Seabrook Primary School".

BOOKLISTS

A reminder that information about booklist items is available on our website:

<https://www.seabrook.vic.edu.au/page/116/School-Fees-and-Booklists>

Feel free to contact us to clarify any concerns you may have. Please be patient as our staff assist any questions and concerns about COVIDSafe measures, Compass and new students.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards and stay safe,

Tania Hunt
Principal