

6 August 2021

Assalamu alaikum Parents/Guardians

COVID UPDATE – 6 AUGUST

Firstly thank you to all the parents who attended the DHHS Forum yesterday afternoon. It was great to see the high participation number.

The most important message we need to get across to all of our families is that **YOUR ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD MUST STAY HOME**. The only reason you can leave home is to get tested, get vaccinated at the College or if you have a medical emergency.

We saw many people ask if they can leave home if they test negative and have no symptoms. The answer is clear and simple, **YOU MUST STAY HOME FOR THE 14 DAY PERIOD**.

DHHS will provide us with translated materials which we will post on Schoolbox under the COVID Info tab. We cannot stress enough how important it is for you to read this information to be fully informed as it becomes available. You should also be checking your Schoolbox page daily for updates. There is a Schoolbox App which you download on your phone to get instant notifications.

TESTING/VACCINATIONS

The isolation period is 14 days which should end on 17 August at midnight. However this may change and you must follow the direction that the College is sending out.

The College has a testing facility at 201 Sayers Road for all our ATC families. This is open from 9am until 8pm this evening, we expect it will be open for the next few days. ATC families and staff may also get vaccinated at the College. Vaccinations are available for those aged 16 and over and are only available for ATC staff, students and anyone living in their home. This is not available for extended family members.

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU AND EVERYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS TESTED. Please do not wait to do it. It is also vitally important that you share your results with the College so that we know what we need to do to support you. We can assure you that the results you provide us will be kept fully confidential.

THE GAT

For our Year 12 students, the GAT has been postponed to a later date due to the 14 day isolation period we are currently locked into. Further information will be sent to our Year 12s as it becomes available.

The College is here to support you if you need to contact the College, email adminoffice@wicv.net. Stay home, stay safe.

Kind regards

Omar Hallak
Principal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it mean that my whole family has to isolate for 14 days even though we are not close contacts?

All staff, students and the members of their household must stay home for the 14 day period to reduce the risk of possibly spreading the virus.

Where am I allowed to go whilst in isolation?

You are not to leave your home unless you are getting a COVID test, a COVID vaccine at the College or you are experiencing a medical emergency.

Can I exercise during my time in isolation?

You can only exercise at home. You cannot leave the house to exercise even if you have no symptoms, your test is negative or if you are on your own.

What is the date our isolation starts?

We believe the first day of isolation was 4 August however further details will be posted on Schoolbox as it becomes available.

If I test negative, can I go to work?

No, you must remain at home until the 14 day period ends.

Am I allowed to do click and collect during isolation?

No, all purchased items must be delivered directly to your home.

Is there a financial supplement to assist me and my family as we have no income during our 14 days of isolation?

Yes there is, please contact DHHS directly for further information.

What will happen to our year 12 children? They are struggling mentally with online learning.

All students will be working remotely during the 14 day period. If you feel your child requires extra assistance please contact the Year Level Coordinators via email. The College has a Wellbeing Department with further information being posted on Schoolbox.

How will this situation effect the VCAA exams for the year 12 students and the GAT?

At this point, the exams will continue as previously planned. However dates may vary given the State is now in its 6th lockdown.

One of my children attends another school, if they test negative and still can't go to school, will their school provide online learning/resources for them?

Parents will be required to call their child's school and make their own arrangements.

Can all my family members get the vaccine from Al-Taqwa College (Ages 16 and over)?

Yes they can as long as they live in your household.

How old does a child need to be before they can get tested?

Children must be of school age to get tested.

I had a hospital appointment on Monday for a post-surgery follow up. Can I attend my appointment whilst wearing a mask and practice social distancing?

No you must call the hospital and make alternative arrangements.

Will the government cover the cost of childcare while our kids are in quarantine? Childcare said that they will treat the quarantine period as a regular absence. The information sent by the DHHS is very vague regarding who is eligible for the financial help.

My workplace require a medical certificate for my isolation period but my doctor told me he won't give me one.

The College will be posting a DHHS letter on Schoolbox for families to use for work, other schools, childcare etc.

If it is found that the staff member caught the virus from their partner, would the school be tier 2 instead of tier 1?

No the entire College is listed as tier 1 due to the recent Delta strain and the efficiency in which it can spread.

I require a medical script to be filled. I hadn't done it before this was announced but I live alone, so how can I get my medication?

You must contact your doctor and your local pharmacy to have your medications delivered.

How long will the vaccination centre be present at our school?

There is no set date at the moment. Please continue to check Schoolbox for updates.

What is the expected timeframe to get a call from the Department of Health? Do we need to register with contact tracing team or is the school doing this on our behalf?

The College has provided contact details of all staff and students to the Department. They will contact you over the coming days with information on what is expected of you.

If we are not allowed to send babies to daycare, who can take care of them while both parents are working from home?

The Department does offer assistance, please check their website for further details or call the hotline on 1800 675 398.

Will homeschooled children still receive education during isolation?

Parents are expected to call homeschool teachers directly and arrange zoom sessions.