

Assalamu alaikum Parents/Guardians

COVID-19: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does my child have to have a vaccine prior to returning to School?

We highly recommend that all students aged 12 years and over get vaccinated, however this is not mandatory. You can call the Covid19 Hotline on 1800 675 398 to arrange an appointment. Ensure that you check with your GP prior to booking your child to have their vaccine.

Does my child have to have a Covid19 test prior to commencing school?

No there is no need for students have a test prior to returning to school, if parents wish to do a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) for their children before they return to school next week they are more than welcome to do so at their own expense.

Will the school provide Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) kits for my child?

The school will be providing Rapid Antigen tests for your child to take home once we receive them from the Department of Education.

Parents will be required to test their children (Al-Taqwa students) twice per week, on Monday and Thursday morning before they leave home to come to school. This needs to take place from Week 1 to Week 4 inclusive.

If I lose the Rapid Antigen test kits provided by the school, will the school give me some more?

No, if you lose the Rapid Antigen test kits provide by the school, then you will need to purchase some at your own expense and still test your child twice per week for 4 weeks. No additional test kits will be provided.

Can I use the Rapid Antigen tests provided for other members of my family or friends?

No, these test kits provided as only for your child that attends Al-Taqwa College.

Will the school still provide Rapid Antigen test kits to me after week 4?

No, after week 4, if you child feels unwell or have flu like symptoms, you will need to buy your own Rapid Antigen test kits or do a PCR test. The Rapid Antigen Test kits can be brought from most supermarkets and pharmacies.

What do I do if my child has a negative Rapid Antigen test?

If the child returns a negative Covid19 test result and they are **not** a close contact, then they are welcome to come to school.

What is a close contact?

A close contact is a person that lives in the same household (household) as the person who is Covid19 positive or has been with that person for more than 4 hours indoors (household-like contact)

Can my child come to school if someone who lives in my house is Covid19 positive?

No, your child cannot come to school if someone in your house is positive to Covid19. Your child is considered a close contact, please follow the steps outlined below at:

"What do I do if my child is a close contact (lives in a household with a Covid19 positive person or has spent >4 hrs in the same house (household-like contact)with them?"

What do I do if my child has a positive Rapid Antigen test?

If the child returns a positive Covid19 test result, you must

Step 1 – Isolate immediately for 7 days, you cannot leave before the end of the 7 days

Step 2 – Notify DHHS, by clicking on the link below of your positive result. DHHS will send you a text message and a date that you can leave isolation

DHHS link

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report>

Step 3- Notify you close contacts, Please see above who is defined as a close contact

Step 4 – Notify your social contacts (people that you do not live with and who you have spent 15 minutes or has spent 2 hours with, in the same indoor space).

Step 5 – Notify the school by clicking on the link below and completing the form

School link:- **2022 – Student Covid19 Positive & Close Contacts**

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5eaf13ecde194350829b3298faa88afe>

What do I do if my child is advised that they are a social contact?

Continue as normal and monitor for symptoms. If they start to feel unwell or have flu like symptoms, then you need to do a Rapid Antigen test or PCR and follow the steps above if you return a positive result

What do I do if my child is a close contact (lives in a household with a Covid19 positive person or has spent >4 hrs in the same house (household-like contact)with them?

Your Child needs to do the following:

Step 1 – Isolate immediately for 7 days, you cannot leave before the end of the 7 days.

If you have been notified that you are a close contact and do not isolate for 7 days, then may receive a fine from DHHS

- *If they are staying in the house of the Covid19 positive person:* you must start their 7 day isolation period from the date the positive person got tested.
- *If they are not staying in the house of the Covid19 positive person:* you must start their 7 day isolation period from the date they last had contact with the positive person.

Step 2 – Get tested on **Day 1** with a Rapid Antigen test, or a PCR test if you can't access a rapid test as soon as possible.

Step 3 – Notify the school that you are a close contact, by clicking on the link and completing the form

School link:- **2022 – Student Covid19 Positive & Close Contacts**

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5eaf13ecde194350829b3298faa88afe>

Step 4 – Get tested again on **Day 6** of your isolation period with a Rapid Antigen test or a PCR test if you can't access a rapid test

Step 5 - Notify the school of your **day 6** test result by complete the school 2022 – Student Covid19 Positive & Close Contacts link below to advise the school

School link: **2022 – Student Covid19 Positive & Close Contacts**

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5eaf13ecde194350829b3298faa88afe>

Step 6 – **Test Result Instructions**

If you return a negative Covid19 test on Day 6, then you can leave isolation at the end of Day 7.

If you return a positive Covid19 test, then your 7 days isolation starts again, please follow the steps outlined above at ***What do I do if my child has a positive Rapid Antigen test?***

If my child has tested Covid19 positive recently, do they need to do the Covid19 test using the Rapid Antigen tests that the school provides for 4 weeks?

If your child has tested positive recently, then they do not need to do the twice weekly Rapid Antigen tests using the test kits provided by the school for 30 days after their Covid19 positive date. If they retest during that period then they will still show a positive test result.

Please complete the school link above to advise if your child was Covid19 positive over the school holidays

What is my child feels unwell on any days of the week other than Monday morning or Thursday morning?

If your child feels unwell or exhibits any flu like symptoms listed below, then do not send your child to school and do either a Rapid Antigen test or go and get a PCR. If your child does a PCR test, then they **must** isolate at home until they get their test result.

If your child has:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.
- Fatigue or muscles aches and pains.

Students **must** stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative.

Will my child have to isolate for 7 days if there is a Covid19 positive case in their class (student or staff)?

No, your child is not required to isolate unless they have symptoms, they will stay at school.

If any child or staff member in that class has symptoms then they must stay at home, take a Rapid Antigen test or PCR if a Rapid Antigen test is not available. If you do a PCR test you must stay at home until they get your test results.

If your child's test result is negative and they have no symptoms they can return to school.

If your child's test result is positive, then they need to isolate for 7 days and not return to school until day 8, if they have no symptoms. All of the members of your household are all required to isolate for 7 days and go and do a Rapid Antigen test.

How will you ensure my child's safety against contracting COVID-19?

We will endeavour to do the best we can while children are at school, but we cannot guarantee everything.

If staff and students follow the procedures below, the risk of obtaining the Virus will be reduced.

- **All** students in Years 3-12 **must** wear a mask indoors.
- All students in Years Foundation to Year 2 are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Hand Hygiene throughout the day.
- Anybody presenting unwell or flu like symptoms will be sent home immediately
- **No** sharing of any items
- Cleaning classrooms, high touch points, bathrooms throughout the day
- No visitors to the College
- Physical distancing (minimum of 1.5 metres) in place

Will all students be required to wear a face covering?

All students from Year 3 to Year 12 must wear a face covering unless they have provided the College with a medical exemption from their doctor inside College buildings except when eating or drinking. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and possible civil penalties.

Teachers are not expected to wear their face covering whilst they are face-to-face teaching their class. Students in other year levels are encouraged to wear masks.

We ask that all parents remain in their cars and do not walk their children to the gates. We also strongly advise that your child has a spare mask in their schoolbag in case the mask they are wearing gets misplaced or soiled.

Will hand sanitiser be provided for students to use?

We have issued pump bottles in each classroom. We have also installed automatic sanitiser dispensers in the hallway entrances, halls and staffrooms.

What do I do if my child suffers from hay fever?

As there are some similarities between hay fever symptoms and those of COVID-19, students who suffer from hay fever need to be pro-active whilst attending school.

Students must obtain a medical certificate from their GP to prove their condition and take their medication prior to leaving home for school.

Medical certificates are to be emailed to adminoffice@wicv.net with your child's name, class, and reason for certificate. Students who exhibit flu like symptoms at school, after taking hay fever medication before leaving home, will be sent home immediately.

Will there be extra cleaning at the College?

- All student bathrooms will be cleaned six times throughout the day with audits taken several times each week.
- Classrooms: Teachers will be responsible for wiping down the classroom desks, chairs, door handles and light switches at the end of each period or double period for Secondary and for Primary before recess time, before lunch ends and at the end of the day.
- Playgrounds will be cleaned several times a day once they become operational.
- High touch points (door handles, light switches etc) will be cleaned throughout the day.

What will happen if my child is scheduled to come into school? What will their learning look like?

Your child's normal teacher will be teaching them face-to-face where possible.

If my child is Covid19 positive or a household contact and is isolating for 7 days, what support is the school providing my child during that time?

Students in isolation will continue their learning from home (for the period of their isolation) via zoom live sessions and tasks will be allocated on Schoolbox. Further information will be uploaded on Schoolbox in the upcoming days.

Will I be able to come into the College?

Parents will not be permitted to enter the College buildings for any of the following reasons.

- Drop off items for their children (i.e. food/drink, money, clothing, projects etc.).
- To meet with staff (this may be done over the phone by arranging an appropriate time).
- To pay fees (this may be done by phone or at the front of the admin building)

If it is essential for someone to enter the College buildings, they **must** organise a day/time first. Visitors are to report to the Administration office wearing their mask, use the QR code, sanitise their hands and complete a health questionnaire.

Will the College Canteen be open, or would I need to pack my child's lunch?

The Canteen will open from Monday 31 January 2022 with all lunch orders to be placed by the end of homeroom and will be open for snack at recess and lunch time.

What safety precautions can I take as a parent for my child?

Students will be required to bring a drink bottle to school each day with fresh water.

The bubblers at the drinking troughs have been replaced with a tap, so students will be able to fill their bottles at recess and lunch time if required. The taps will be wiped by our maintenance team after recess, lunch and towards the end of each day. DHHS has advised as long as the students sanitised their hands when entering/leaving the classroom the taps will be safe to use.

Please ensure that your child's water bottle is clearly labelled with their name and class. Instruct your child about good hand hygiene prior to starting and also physical distancing. Please remind your child not to share food and drinks.

Will my child be able to access their locker?

Yes, Lockers will be used for secondary students.

Will the College be talking to my child about good hand hygiene and physical distancing?

Yes. We are organising videos and talks for students on their first day of school and go through the College's policies and expectations.

Students who deliberately put a staff or student at risk will receive consequences as per the Behaviour Policy, e.g. coughing in people's faces, spitting etc.

If your child has been found to be doing this deliberately, it is a cause for them to be suspended or debarred.

What will happen if my child is sick during the day?

You will be contacted to come and pick up your child immediately. Please ensure you have spoken to a friend or relative and have them on standby, should the need arise for your child to be picked up and you can't do it.

Parents/relatives **must** collect their child at the rear of the Nurse office (the door exiting the Administration Car Park to reduce the potential of the virus being transmitted in the office.

Is my child able to share their items?

No. There is to be no communal sharing of any items at any time, such as pens, cups, plates, cutlery and food items.

Can I pick my child up early for an appointment?

No. There will be **no** early pick-ups, so if your child has an appointment please keep them at home all day and advise the College of their absence.

What if I am still concerned about the virus and choose not to send my child to school?

We have advice from DHHS that it is safe for students to return to school. If, however, you choose not to send your child, they will be marked as absent. **No** remote learning and work will be provided for those remaining at home in these circumstances.

What will happen during their specialty classes (i.e. Science/food tech etc)?

All speciality classes have additional COVID safe protocols in place. These include **no** sharing of equipment, laboratory coats/aprons will be washed and dried after each use etc.

What if I forget to pack lunch for my child, can I drop it off?

No. We will **not** be accepting lunch drop-offs so please ensure you are organised and have packed your child's belongings accordingly every morning.

Will buses be operating?

School buses will recommence on Monday 31 January 2022. All buses will have hand sanitisers, to be used each time a student enters/exits the bus.

All bus drivers will clean, sweep, and disinfect their buses upon return each morning and afternoon.

Will there still be a recess and lunchtime?

Yes. Students will still have their recess and lunch periods. Please remind your child to keep physical distancing during their break times.

I have seen students line up outside their classrooms, will this still be the case?

Yes. We will, however, ensure they are spaced out in accordance with physical distancing rules.

Will the Library be opened?

The Library will be closed for week 1 (Monday 31 January – 6 February 2022) due to flooding and reopen on Monday 7 February 2022 for student borrowing

The Library staff will be required to wipe all returned items before putting them back on the shelves.

When I drop my child off at school, can I meet up with friends and have a chat on school grounds before I go home?

No. Once you have dropped your child off at school you are to leave the College grounds immediately. Any parents found to be congregating will be asked to move on.

What if my child is late in the morning, can I bring them to the office?

No. You are to stay in your car and ask your child to go straight to their classroom

The home room teacher will mark them late for class. The gates will close at 9am, if students arrive after this time, they will need to enter the school grounds via the Administration Office.

So please leave home in plenty of time allowing for traffic to ensure that your child is not late for school.

Will prayers still take place at school?

The Masjid remains closed at this point. Prayers remain an important part of who we are as a College and a community. They will take place in homerooms as per their timetables, and while practising physical distancing.

What if my child is on an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or placed on an Academic or Behaviour Contract/Agreement and I need to meet the teacher?

Staff will continue contacting parents by phone if required.

Where do I pickup/drop off my children?

Please refer to the [Al-Taqwa College 2022 – Student Commencement Information letter](#) and the [2022 Al-Taqwa College Drop Off Pick Up & Student Day 1 Meeting Location Map](#) on school box

We ask that all parents remain in their cars when dropping off their children in the morning. Please ensure that you arrive on time. It is preferred that all parents use the drop and go zone in the mornings to avoid too many people on the grounds walking around. Parents are unable to walk their children to class.

My Child has lost their school jumper, will the uniform shop be open?

You **must** place an online order directly with PSW for any uniform items.

Will the primary morning hifz classes and Saturday classes resume as normal?

Yes.

Primary hifz will classes will commence face to face from week 3 onwards.

Class locations will be communicated to parents. All Saturday classes will also commence in week 3.

Will afterschool Arabic classes commence this term?

After-school Arabic classes will commence in week 3 face to face every Tuesday and Wednesday. A letter will be uploaded on Schoolbox in week 1 for parents to register their children.

Will the Reach for the Stars After School program be running in Term 1 2022?

Staff are currently planning for this program for Term 1 in secondary, if your child has been selected to be part of this program, you will receive in the coming weeks via Schoolbox.

How can we show respect for our staff?

Our staff are here to help you and your children, and they are doing a very difficult job in very unusual circumstances. While we know much of what happening is stressful and frustrating, please support our staff by showing them every respect and consideration.

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