



College COVID Safe Protocols

Mount Alvernia College continues to adhere to all **Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC)** policies and advice in conjunction with the Queensland Health in relation to the management of school operations during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

As the situation continues to change, the College Leadership Team at Mount Alvernia College regularly assesses the risks associated with this evolving situation alongside the regulations and advice of the day.

Current Guidelines

From 6pm on Thursday 28 April 2022, close contacts who do not have COVID-19 symptoms are no longer required to quarantine.

Students who are close contacts must notify the college school that they are a close contact.

For 7 days after becoming a close contact, students over the age of 12 must wear a face mask while outside of their home, including at school, and when outdoors if unable to physically distance. Queensland Health also recommends that children under the age of 12 wear a face mask when it is safe to do so.

It is recommended that students undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT) on the first day they leave home, and every second day (e.g., days 2, 4, and 6) until they are no longer a close contact.

Please do not enter the College if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or are COVID-19 positive. Students should isolate until symptoms resolve.

College Events

School Camps, retreats, excursions, assemblies, whole school carnivals and large gatherings will continue under COVID-safe protocols.

CaSSSA Sports Training and Fixtures including CaSSSA Swimming Carnival, FCIP lessons and ensembles will continue under COVID-safe protocols.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

The College are not providing RATs to staff or students who are close contacts. You will need to source and administer your own tests. However, our college is continuing to provide RATs to staff and students who develop COVID-19 symptoms while at school.

Face Masks

As a gentle reminder, masks continue to be required in certain settings for anyone aged 12 years or older, such as when travelling on public transport. They are also recommended whenever you can't physically distance.

Anyone who chooses to wear a mask at school will be supported to do so.

Keeping Our Community Safe

Staff and students continue to be reminded of the importance of effective hand hygiene, sanitisation, physical distancing, and mask wearing (as required).

Parents and caregivers are reminded to follow the official health advice in relation to the health of their child.

- Stay home if you are sick
- If you have any COVID-19 Symptoms, no matter how mild, be tested and isolate until you receive the results. Common symptoms include:
 - Fever
 - Fatigue
 - Cough
 - Diarrhoea
 - Sore throat
 - Vomitting
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Runny nose
 - Loss of smell
 - Loss of taste

Please note: It is extremely important that students who have any of the symptoms outlined in the health advice **do not come to school.**

Vaccinations

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations are now required for all people working or delivering a service at Mount Alvernia College. This includes anyone who works in, undertakes an educational placement in, or volunteers in the College, including contactors and third-party service providers.

Students of all ages are able to attend school regardless of their vaccination status.

As we move through the year, senior students will need to follow the health directions and provider requirements for work placements and/or traineeships or attendance at some external venues. This also applies to those students aged 16 years and above who attend an event or excursion where the venue or operator requires attendees to be vaccinated.

Possible College Closure

As the situation continues to change, we are cognisant that spot closures of individual schools are an ongoing possibility. These declarations can come suddenly and with little notice.

In the event of a school closure or the need to return to a period of Learning From Home this information would be conveyed as soon as possible to the parent community via the Mount Alvernia College app. If and where possible, students would be invited to access the site and their lockers to retrieve their materials in a safe and systematic manner. We would then resume classes as per our Learning From Home guidelines.

Mount Alvernia College, alongside other Catholic schools in Queensland, continues to work with authorities to ensure it is contributing in every way possible to limit the impacts of COVID-19.

Other Resources

- For the latest COVID-19 health advice and information from **Queensland Health**, phone 134COVID (134268) or visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>
- Extensive information on COVID-19, including the latest updates, health and prevention, are available on the **Australian Government website**: <https://www.australia.gov.au/>
- The **Commonwealth Government COVID-19 App** provides up-to-date information on everything from the current status to resources and advice. It can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.