

27 January, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID Update

Welcome to the 2022 school year. Whether you are a returning family or new to our community we are excited to begin the year and for you to be a part of Loreto College Ballarat. This year is beginning with some challenges due to the current COVID-19 situation, but we learned from last year that with some adjustments we can continue to work together to create a safe learning environment.

This letter contains information about current COVID-19 restrictions. Other information will have been conveyed through the Loreto App and Year Level Coordinators.

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits and distribution to schools

Free Rapid Antigen Test kits will be distributed directly to schools for the first four weeks of Term 1. We are expecting a delivery of RATs later this week. Tests will be distributed to Year 7 and Year 12 students on Monday 31 January and to Year 8-11 students on Tuesday 1 February.

Please note:

- The recommended rapid antigen testing schedule for students and staff is twice weekly (on school days)
- Tests will be provided in packs of five individual tests
- Kits will be sent home with students on their first day of attendance and one pack will be sent home with each student at the start of Week 3.
- Students should complete the tests at home, ideally on a Tuesday and Thursday, and must report any positive test results to the school and to the Department of Health (details below).

Face masks

Face masks are compulsory and should be worn at all in times when indoors. Face masks continue to be mandatory on public transport and school buses. Students should provide their own masks, however, emergency supplies are available from student reception.

School gatherings and events

There have been several events that have been postponed or will be online. The Year 12 Retreat and Opening of the School Year Mass have been postponed. The Academic Assembly at this stage will go ahead with restrictions. Parents/Carers will be provided with an online link for the Assembly.

All Year 7 and 12 students will commence classes on Monday 31 January. Year 8-11 students will commence classes on Tuesday 1 February. Parent/Carer evenings will be online or postponed in the first few weeks of the term and we will update parents/carers on these closer to the events.

Ventilation

We have been advised that the very best approach to minimise viral transmission in the warmer months is to open windows and doors to allow ventilation wherever possible. Measures have been put into place to allow for doors and windows to be open. Air Purifiers have been placed in high risk and moderate risk areas.

Confirmed positive case

Where a student is identified as a positive case parents/carers must:

- follow the latest advice at <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests>
- complete the RA Test portal: [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form . Department of Health Portal \(powerappsportals.com\)](https://www.powerappsportals.com/COVID-19-Positive-Rapid-Antigen-Test-Self-Reporting-Form)
- inform the College through PAM (see Instructions below or phone Student Reception 5329 6121)
- **Students who report a positive result must isolate for 7 days and not attend school during that period.**

Household contact of a positive case

A household contact is defined as having spent more than four hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house, accommodation, or care facility. Where a student or staff member is a household contact of a positive case, parents/carers should inform the College and isolate for a period of 7 days.

Please note: a negative test is not required in order to return to school following the isolation period however there should be no symptoms present.

Contact at school with a positive case

Where a student and staff member has been in contact with a case of COVID-19, but not considered a close contact, including at school, they should:

- if symptomatic, stay/return home, take a rapid antigen test, or get a PCR test if a rapid antigen testing kit unavailable
- if not symptomatic, continue to attend school and monitor for symptoms
- The College is not required to seek rapid antigen test results from students unless a positive test is returned

Management of suspected cases of COVID-19 in schools

A 'suspected' or 'symptomatic' case means a person who displays any COVID-19 symptoms. If a student displays symptoms at school or feels ill the student will be isolated and parents/carers will be notified to pick up the student as soon as possible.

Student and Staff attendance

All students are expected to attend onsite. Parent preference is not an approved reason for students to be absent. Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported

in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness. Access to learning materials will be provided to support their continued learning, however, the College is not expected to provide a full remote learning program.

Students and Staff who may be medically vulnerable

As per the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, COVIDSafe measures have been put in place to ensure that schools are as safe as possible for all, including those with medical vulnerabilities, however, independent medical advice should always be taken on an individual basis. If a student has a medical condition that has similar symptoms to COVID, parents/carers should provide a medical certificate to explain the symptoms. This will allow information to be passed on to teachers and staff so that the student is supported during this time.

QR codes and visitors to schools

The use of QR code check-ins and verification of vaccination status is required for visitors to the College. However, in the short-term it is preferable that parents/carers refrain from entering the College unless a prior appointment has been arranged.

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back next week.

Yours sincerely

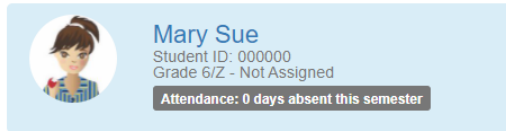


Michelle Brodrick
Principal

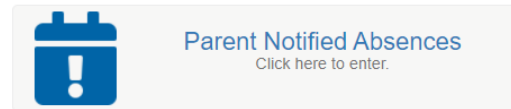
Instructions for Parents:

- Log into PAM <https://pam.loreto.vic.edu.au>
- Select Parent Notified Absence

Students



Mary Sue
Student ID: 000000
Grade 6/Z - Not Assigned
Attendance: 0 days absent this semester

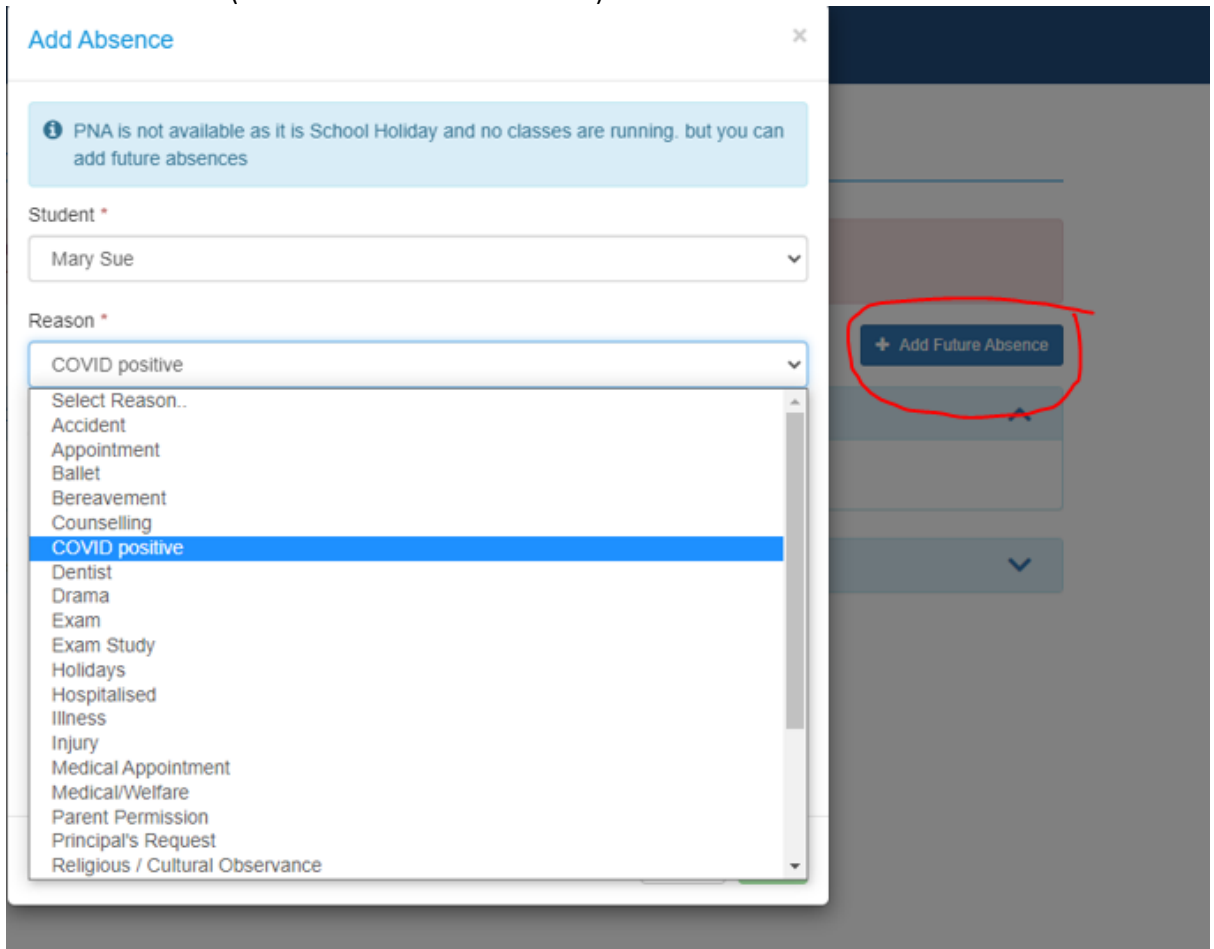


Parent Notified Absences
Click here to enter.

Daily Messages

Knowledge Bank

- Click Add Absence (or in this case Future Absence) and then fill in the details



Add Absence

! PNA is not available as it is School Holiday and no classes are running. but you can add future absences

Student *
Mary Sue

Reason *
COVID positive

- Select Reason..
- Accident
- Appointment
- Ballet
- Bereavement
- Counselling
- COVID positive**
- Dentist
- Drama
- Exam
- Exam Study
- Holidays
- Hospitalised
- Illness
- Injury
- Medical Appointment
- Medical/Welfare
- Parent Permission
- Principal's Request
- Religious / Cultural Observance

+ Add Future Absence