



## ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN

3 Fairview Rd Aldgate SA, 5154 Phone 83393864 or 0418446163  
[dl.4602.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.4602.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)  
[www.aldgatekgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.aldgatekgn.sa.edu.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear parent/caregiver,

SA Health and the Department for Education has provided guidance on how to manage cases of COVID-19 in preschools. There will be new contact tracing and close contact arrangements in education and Early Childhood Education and Care from 31 January 2022. The new arrangements recognise the importance of providing quality education and care for our children while minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Schools, preschools (kindergartens) and ECEC centres will remain open if there is a case of COVID-19 under the new arrangements.

It is very important that you notify us immediately if your child tests positive to COVID-19 – please email AND send us a text message. Any child or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days. We would also appreciate you advising us if/when your child will not be attending Kindergarten due to them being a close contact of someone in your household (see “**Household Contact Requirements**” on the attached *Testing, Isolating and Quarantine for Preschool and Early Childhood Settings*). We encourage you to keep these documents for your reference.

If a child or teacher in your child’s Kindergarten group tests positive for COVID-19, they will be deemed a **classroom contact** and the following will occur:

- We will notify all parents of children in that group of the positive case
- All children without symptoms can continue attending. No rapid antigen testing will be required.
- If your child develops any symptoms (even mild) please keep them home and get a COVID-19 PCR test.

Any child who has worked 1:1 with a COVID positive staff member (more than 15mins, indoors, in close proximity and where face masks were not able to be worn) will be asked to complete 7 days of rapid antigen testing (‘test to stay’) each morning before attending. We will provide you with the testing kits at no charge. Children that test positive must not attend. Alternatively, if you don’t want your child to complete the 7-day testing, they can quarantine for 7 days. Within our site COVID safety plan, we will minimize the risk of this occurring by wearing masks when we are not able to physically distance from children indoors.

The Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) has recommended that **classroom contacts** should avoid the following between days 1 to 7 of exposure:

- attendance at OSHC where possible
- attending extra-curricular-based activities for 7 days (such as camps, excursions, interschool sport, combined choir etc – noting most of these activities have been temporarily suspended until week 4).

The CPHO advises **classroom contacts** should do the following to minimise risk to others, when outside of the school, preschool or ECEC setting between days 1 to 14 of exposure:

- avoid high risk settings or COVID Management Plan events
- wear a surgical mask around others (where age appropriate) and outside your home
- avoid contact with vulnerable people outside of your workplace or family, where possible
- avoid non-essential activities where possible (e.g. where there are lots people, inside, in close contact)
- avoid shared spaces and maintain physical distance.



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If our staff are **classroom contacts**, they will undergo 7 days of rapid antigen testing (**test to stay**) in the event that we are in a classroom with a child or colleague who tests positive.

Our staff will also be undertaking **surveillance rapid antigen testing** every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning and will attend the workplace if they receive a negative result.

It's vitally important that you:

- keep your child home if they are:
  - unwell
  - experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms
  - any other member of the household has COVID-19
  - they are a close contact for a person who has COVID-19 and are required to quarantine
- notify us ASAP if your child tests positive for COVID-19, or they are a close contact of a person who has COVID-19

### Temporary drop off/pick up arrangements:

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we endeavor to support your child's transition to Kindergarten while minimizing risk to them, you, our staff team and the extended community. Please note the following, and give us a call or email me if you would like to discuss individual arrangements for your child.

- if you believe that your child will be happy to be dropped off outside the gate, a staff member will collect them from you and help them with their morning routine (preferred option after their first day or two, but not ideal for all children); OR
- if you believe your child needs a parent/caregiver to support them, limit to one adult, please don't enter the building (the bathroom is an exception, as handwashing is recommended upon arrival) and leave within 15 minutes (staff will support your child to say goodbye);
- be very mindful of congested spaces, e.g. outside the gate, the locker area – keep your distance and wear a mask – maximum of 4 people (including children) in the locker area at a time (under the verandah);
- staff will sign in/out children on behalf of parent/caregiver;
- older siblings to wait outside the gates;
- practice physical distancing, maintain capacity restrictions under the verandah and wear a mask when you arrive for pick-up and we will bring/send your child to you;
- please share these instructions with other caregivers who will be picking up or dropping off your child.

These new settings will be in place until the end of week 4 of term 1. However, with the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic, this may be reviewed or changed if and when needed. As always, we must remain flexible and responsive.

I understand you may have a lot of questions about this information. We'll continue to provide you with information as soon as we have it. Thank you for your understanding and support in implementing these temporary measures as we continue to adjust to this rapidly changing pandemic.

Kind regards,

*Bianca Stanbridge*

[bianca.stanbridge517@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:bianca.stanbridge517@schools.sa.edu.au)