

AL AMANAH COLLEGE

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RE: RETURN TO SCHOOL COVID SAFETY PROCEDURE

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another academic year! We hope that you all have been keeping safe and have spent quality time with your family during the summer break. Given the increase in community transmission, we hope that you all remained safe and well and have been abiding by the NSW health regulations.

The best learning environment for students is in the classroom and we are looking forward to welcoming back our students. We know that while there will be excitement, there will also be some anxiety and uncertainty about being back together at school. The school has adopted a Covid-19 safety plan to reduce the risk of community transmission.

THE START DATE FOR TERM 1

First day for year 1 – 12 students will be Monday 31 January 2022, whereas Kindergarten students will officially start on Monday 7 February 2022.

School Attendance

Under the Education Act students are required to attend school unless they have a valid reason not to do so. There is no provision available for an exemption from attendance to be granted for COVID related absences. We will follow our usual processes to manage unsatisfactory attendance. If a student is unwell, he/she must not attend school.

Rapid Antigen Home Test – RAHT/RAT

There will be “Surveillance” and “Precautionary” Rapid Antigen testing done of all staff and students twice a week. Students who test positive are to abide by the current guidelines which is a 7-day isolation period.

The RAHT kits that will be provided are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19 in people who do not have symptoms. They involve a simple nose swab that is placed in a chemical solution.

Schools will not be required to administer RAHT tests to students. Parents/carers of children participating in RAHT testing will be required to administer the RAHT test at home.

Provided within the RAHT kits are instructions on how to use the tests, check the results and how to dispose of the tests safely. Parents, carers and staff can also download the user guides of the relevant test that they received through the Therapeutic Goods Administration website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers for additional support.

If parents and carers need an interpreter to help with their questions, they can be provided with the following details:

‘If you need an interpreter to assist with the enquiry, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you want to call and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.’

Free RAT kits can be picked up from the main school entry gate on Speed Street, between the following times:

- **Friday 28 January between 9am & 12pm**
- **Saturday 29 January between 9am & 12pm**

All Students are required to test negative on Monday 31 January morning before attending school.

Each student will receive an initial supply of 2 RATs, to be used twice a week (Monday & Thursday) in the morning before attending school.

If a student receives a positive RAHT test, the parents need to:

- Record the positive RAHT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app
- Notify the school immediately of the positive RAHT or PCR test result as soon as possible, email admin@alamanah.nsw.edu.au.
- Follow NSW Health advice to isolate for 7 days
- Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.
- If a student is a household close contact, he/she are required to complete a Rapid Test every morning and may attend if it is negative.

School Hours

Please take note of the following:

1. School canteen will be operating as of Monday 31 January 2022. Students can use the canteen during breaks.
2. Secondary School Students attendance hours will be 8:30am – 3:30pm.
3. Primary School Students attendance hours will be 8:30am – 3:30pm. Primary School Parents will be able to pick up their children at 3:15 daily without entering the school grounds.
4. Parents are to remain outside of school premises and are to follow the physical distancing advice and avoid gathering outside of school gates.
5. **Primary and Secondary school students who board the school buses will leave school at 3:10pm daily.** Please make sure there is a parent waiting at home.
6. There will be no morning assembly during term 1, **all students are required to arrive at 8:30am** and are required to head to their classrooms as soon as they enter school grounds. Students will recite the morning supplication in their classrooms during roll call.
7. We will follow the usual timetable including recess and lunch breaks. Primary and secondary students will be separated throughout the day and during prayer.
8. There will be 2 prayer sessions held separately for boys and girls in both Primary and Secondary schools.

Responding to COVID-19 cases

Where there is a case of COVID-19 in the school community, the school has established systems and protocols with NSW Health to manage and respond accordingly to keep our staff and students safe. These protocols include communication with parents or carers if their child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 while at school or if the school becomes non-operational.

Creating a safe learning environment

Masks and face coverings

Masks will be mandatory for all staff and all students in Year 7 and above while they are indoors on school sites. Masks are strongly recommended indoors for primary students (year 3 – year 6).

Students should bring their own masks where possible, but the school will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are mandatory for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.

Ventilation

Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of COVID-19. Where possible classroom doors and windows will remain open and fans and air-conditioners will be set to use outside air, where possible.

Physical distancing and Personal hygiene

The school will continue to implement its risk management strategies around the interactions between staff members and parents. Face to face interactions will not be available at this stage. All communications can be exercised via email, phone or online between parents and the school. Parents and non-essential visitors will not be allowed on school premises until further notice. All essential visitors including parents must wear masks.

Parents and carers must follow their school's advice regarding changes to student drop off and pick up. This includes staying in the car when dropping off and picking up children if it is safe to do so.

All adults must keep 1.5 metres distance from each other, including teachers and support staff, and parents and carers waiting to collect children.

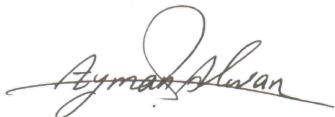
Physical distancing between children in the same class is not required under the latest health guidelines. Mixing between class groups will be minimised and students will be supported to follow strict hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- not sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into their elbow, or else using a tissue which should be put in the bin straight away
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.

Get in touch with questions or concerns

You are advised to get in contact with me directly if you would like more information about the school's COVID-safe return to school plan or if you have concerns or questions about your child being back in their classroom for face-to-face learning in Term 1.

Regards,



Ayman Alwan

PRINCIPAL

27 January 2022