



**Santa Clara School**

## **COVID 19 High Caseload Mask Wearing**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As you are aware, under current WA Government requirements, students in primary schools are not required to wear masks while at school in areas where mask mandates currently apply. The Minister for Education, however, has stated that as case numbers increase there will be a requirement for students from Year 3 onwards to wear masks at school.

The change in the definition of close contacts in school settings has reinforced the importance of mask-wearing. Primary students are being significantly impacted by positive COVID-19 cases as entire classes are being identified as close contacts, under the following definitions:

- Face-to-face contact for 15 minutes or longer with an infectious person where a mask was not worn;
- Interaction for more than two hours in a classroom environment where masks have not been worn or have been removed.

Close contacts are required to isolate for seven days and this has huge implications for the entire family.

I would encourage parents of children in Years 3 and above to discuss with them the possible wearing of masks at school and the potential for this to become compulsory in the days ahead. We are aware that some of our children are already choosing to wear a mask at school.

As part of an education program to support your child in transitioning to a possible mask mandate, we will be implementing 'try a mask' sessions to allow students in Years 3 and above to become familiar with the correct wearing of masks.

If you are purchasing masks for your child, especially for younger children, please ensure that they are child sized and fit appropriately.

Kind regards,

Clinton Payne  
**Principal**

18 February 2022