



LAKES GRAMMAR

AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL

ABN 24 765 357 415

PO Box 6069 Gorokan NSW 2263
Cnr. Sparks Road & Albert Warner Drive Warnervale 2259
T 02 4393 4111 F 02 4393 4133
E admin@lakes.nsw.edu.au W www.lakes.nsw.edu.au

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

Clarification regarding COVID testing requirements

In my letter to you dated 19 August I outlined the Department of Education's guidance for schools relating to testing of students and staff who show flu-like symptoms. In summary, they were:

- Keep your child home if he/she is unwell with these kinds of symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste and loss of sense of smell), even if only mild symptoms. If a student presents at school with these symptoms, we will ask a parent or carer to come and take the student home.
- Have your child tested for COVID-19, provide the school with the negative test result and keep your child home until symptoms have cleared.
- We additionally ask that if any member of the household is being tested for COVID-19 the children should stay home until a negative test result is obtained.

Since then the Department has sent some clarifications relating to COVID testing.

- In situations where a parent/carer is unwilling to allow their child to undertake a COVID test or provide the school with a negative COVID-19 test result, the student is to be excluded from school for a 10 day period. Additionally, the student must have been symptom free for at least 3 days before returning to school.
- Children with some health conditions or disabilities may not be able to undergo a COVID test. In these situations, schools are to ask the parent/carer to have their child assessed by their medical practitioner. Where a medical practitioner determines that a COVID-19 test is not necessary, a medical certificate must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to the school environment.
- If, after testing negative, a person has ongoing symptoms which persist beyond 10 days, the person (staff or students) should arrange to see their doctor. The medical assessment should consider whether the symptoms are typical for that person (for example seasonal, allergic rhinitis), and provide documentation for the school if this is the case. If there are new symptoms at any time, the person should be tested again.

We understand that it may be difficult for young children to undergo the test and that some parents may be unwilling to have their child tested. However, these are the rules we have been given and we must follow them. Apparently, the drive-through testing centres are relatively easy on children, compared with hospital testing. It may be that a negative test and staying home until the symptoms clear will be a shorter period of absence from school than having to stay away for ten days.

Please email a screenshot of a negative test result to COVIDstudents@lakes.nsw.edu.au.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep our students and staff safe while at school.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hannah
Principal