

10th February 2022

Dear parents/guardians,

Our school will be taking part in a trial of rapid antigen 'test to stay' for children who are classroom contacts of someone with COVID-19 from week 3.

At the moment, if your child is in a classroom with someone who tests positive to COVID-19, you will be notified that they are a classroom contact and encouraged to keep sending your child to school, while monitoring for symptoms and limiting [some activities](#).

As part of the trial, you will have the option to receive a 7-day supply of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for your child if they are a classroom contact. The RATs should be used to test your child before school for 7 days following their exposure to COVID-19.

The trial is optional – you do not have to take part. If your family chooses not to take part, your child can continue attending school under the classroom contact [rules](#).

If your child becomes a classroom contact, we will let you know what to do and what is required if you would like to take part in the trial.

Why is this trial happening, and why in our school?

The intention of the trial is to increase overall safety at school by identifying positive COVID-19 cases before students come to school.

Experience in other states suggests practical challenges interfere with the effective use of RATs for daily student testing. To understand how this approach works in practice, SA Health is supporting the Department for Education to conduct this trial.

This option is being trialled in special schools, **disability units**, Centres for Deaf and Hearing Impaired, and schools in the Mid Murray District Council Local Government Area (LGA).

The Mid Murray LGA was selected as the area has one of the lowest vaccination rates in South Australia as of 7th February.

Evaluation of the trial will take place after 4 weeks. A decision about whether the trial will be continued or expanded will be made once the evaluation is completed.

Shane Cowey
Principal