

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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15 December 2021

Dear families,

As the end of the year draws near and holidays are approaching, I wanted to provide you with an update on current COVID-19 planning for our schools.

I know that there may be some concern and apprehension for you and your family about our transition to living with cases of COVID-19 in our communities. I also understand your concern regarding COVID-19 potentially being in our schools.

Moving into 2022, the health and safety of staff and students continues to be our number one priority. We will work hard to keep schools safe so that our students can remain at school learning with their friends and teachers. We know that to achieve the best possible education and health and wellbeing outcomes, every day that students are at school counts.

There are a number of preventative measures that our schools are adopting to reduce the spread of COVID-19. A [Fact Sheet](#) has been prepared that outlines what we are doing.

You may also like to watch [this video](#) which features Dr Shannon Melody. Dr Melody is a Tasmanian Public Health Physician, and talks about COVID-19 in relation to children and schools. I hope that it will help answer some of the questions and concerns that you may have.

Public Health will be offering COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5-11 beginning in January. Parents can now [book appointments](#) for their children to get vaccinated at special children's clinics across Tasmania in the New Year. Appointments are available from 10 January 2022. For more information visit the [Coronavirus website](#). While we strongly support the vaccination of students, it will not be required for students to attend our schools.

We continue to base our response on advice from Public Health. We will always take every recommended precaution to keep our schools safe.

Please ensure you keep up to date with the situation over the holiday period by visiting www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au. We will also keep the [DoE website](#) updated with any new information. Should we need to we will actively communicate with you through your school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and New Year and all the best for 2022.

Yours sincerely

Tim Bullard
SECRETARY