



**Penola**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
EST. 1995

October 7, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The Department of Health (DH) has confirmed that a student at Penola Catholic College has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

While the student was most recently on site on 6 October, the DH and Melbourne Archdiocesan Schools (MACS) have advised that Penola Catholic College will remain open. Certain parts of the Broadmeadows campus where the confirmed case was located will receive a pandemic clean.

We have identified and notified any person who has been in close recent contact with the student who tested positive for COVID-19. Affected students, their families and school staff have been sent home to get tested and isolate until they receive their result. Further information will be provided by the DH directly to these students, families and school staff.

I understand this news will be concerning for many of you. I want to assure you we are doing everything we can to contain and slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of our whole school community.

As per DH and MACS guidelines it is essential that information about the student who has tested positive remains confidential. Unnecessary discussion about the individual, including gossip, hearsay and social media commentary, is potentially damaging to their wellbeing and is not in keeping with our Josephite ethos of an environment based on compassion, respect, justice and responsibility.

The school is being supported by the DH and MACS regarding our next steps and appropriate action.

The school will update all families when further information is known. We will continue to keep you informed as further updates become available.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Caldwell**  
**Principal**  
**Penola Catholic College**