**Subject: COVID Safety For Schools Course**

Dear [Principal's Name],

I have recently completed an online course about COVID safety in schools, and I’d like to suggest that our school make use of it as a professional development activity for all staff.

The [COVID Safety For Schools Course](https://www.covidsafetyforschools.org/) is an initiative of COVID Safety Australia Inc, a not-for-profit organisation established to provide factually accurate information about COVID to workplaces such as schools.

The course is free, and features some of Australia’s leading scientific, medical and health & safety experts in fields relevant to COVID. It explains key concepts in clear, easy-to-understand language, and provides practical advice on how to minimise the risk of the virus spreading at schools without disrupting their core role of providing a great education.

It focuses on clean-air measures to prevent spread of COVID. These measures will also be effective in reducing the impact of other airborne viruses such as RSV and influenza. Improving air quality can also lead to improved cognitive performance and academic results, and reduced teacher and student absences due to illness.

The course is self-paced and can be started at any time. It comprises seven hours of video content plus links to additional resources. The content is divided into 15-20 minute video modules, so can easily be completed over a couple of weeks.

Teachers can receive a Certificate of Completion, and the course can be counted as PD under Focus Area 4.4 (Maintain Student Safety) of the [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](https://www.aitsl.edu.au/standards).

**Why COVID safety is important for the school**

Despite what many people have come to believe, COVID is not a mild illness and should be seen as a very serious infectious disease. It has become one of the [leading causes of death](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-27/abs-deaths-in-graphs-covid-heart-disease-suicide/102907992) in Australia, and can also have serious long-term health impacts including [Long COVID](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-12-27/long-covid-mecfs-health-damaging-relationships-crisis/103205564), [cardiovascular disease](https://www.smh.com.au/national/fatal-heart-attacks-have-surged-in-australia-here-s-why-20230117-p5cd22.html) and a range of other chronic health conditions.

Schools are currently reliant on public health guidance that is very limited, and in some cases out of date or even factually incorrect. It hasn’t helped that some politicians and media outlets have downplayed the seriousness of COVID and led many in the community to believe that it can be treated “[like any other respiratory illness](https://federation.gov.au/national-cabinet/media/2022-12-09-strategic-framework-transitioning-covid-19-measures)”.

By becoming better informed about COVID the school can:

* Improve educational outcomes by having fewer sick students
* Reduce teacher absence due to illness, including Long COVID
* Meet its legal obligations to provide a safe environment, and avoid personal liability for individual staff
* Improve the reputation of the school by being seen to be on the front foot regarding COVID safety.

I appreciate that we are all extremely busy with many competing priorities when it comes to PD. However, given the exceptional nature of the health threats posed by COVID, I believe it is very much in the interests of the school to ensure that staff are well informed about how to keep themselves, their students and the wider school community safe.

Thank you for considering my request. Further information about the course can be found at <https://www.covidsafetyforschools.org/>.

Regards,

[Teacher Name]