

COVID-smart measures for schools

Information for parents, carers and students



We know that being together in the classroom is the best thing for our students' learning, growth and welfare. This term we will continue to implement several measures to allow us to prioritise both the wellbeing of our students and a consistent and productive learning environment.



Stay home if unwell

- If your child is unwell, you must keep them at home. If they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, they should take a COVID-19 test (PCR or RAT) and follow the advice from the NSW Government on [managing COVID-19 safely at home](#).
- Your child should only return to school when they are symptom free.



Vaccinations

- Vaccinations for COVID-19 and other viral illnesses are one of the best ways of protecting yourself, your family and the community. Vaccination is a safe and effective way to give your immune system a helping hand against many illnesses.
- All eligible students and staff are strongly encouraged to keep up to date with their vaccinations to protect their health.
- All staff working in schools for specific purposes (SSPs) are required to be double vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid medical contraindication.



Rapid antigen testing

- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) should be used if your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students who test positive to COVID-19 are encouraged to notify their school and register their positive test results with [Service NSW](#) to have access to timely advice and support from NSW Health.
- Schools will maintain a reserve stock of rapid antigen tests onsite for surveillance testing purposes in the event of an outbreak.



Hygiene and cleaning

- Students are encouraged to regularly wash their hands with soap and warm water, and to use personal protective equipment as required.
- Boosted day cleaning of schools will continue on high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways.



Ventilation

- Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise the risk of transmission.
- During the warmer months, cooling will be used together with ventilation methods to balance thermal comfort.
- All learning spaces in government schools have been checked to ensure appropriate levels of ventilation and air purifiers have been provided where needed.
- Using outdoor spaces will continue to be encouraged where possible.



Masks

- Mask-wearing is strongly encouraged where possible for all students, staff and visitors, particularly indoors and/or when physical distancing is not possible, and if they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Mask-wearing is required at all times for staff, volunteers and other workers who support our students who are at greater risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19, whether they be in schools for specific purposes (SSPs), support units or mainstream classrooms.



Visitors

- Visitors can attend school sites regardless of their vaccination status.
- Visitors who are engaging directly with students in certain higher-risk settings for school operations and curriculum delivery and allied health partners for the wellbeing of students, may be required to wear masks.



Activities

- Health and safety risk assessments will be integrated when planning activities, including excursions and overnight camps.
- Parents and carers will be made aware of the risk of exposure and will need to give permission for certain activities.



Responding to local situations

- Schools will work with the department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing case management team to respond appropriately to local situations, including outbreaks of viral illness.
- In some cases, schools may temporarily introduce additional measures as a 'circuit breaker', including requiring mask-wearing, postponing or limiting non-essential activities and directing cohorts to learn remotely.



Learning remotely

- Schools continue to have access to digital, guided and printed learning resources to support students who need to learn remotely.

For more info, visit education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

Telephone interpreter service

If you need further information please call your school principal. If you need an interpreter to assist you with your enquiry please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you want to call, and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring school operations continue while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of students and school staff.