

COVID-19 advice for families

Updated June 2021

We're working closely with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), NSW Health and other agencies to ensure our schools continue to operate in the safest ways possible in the COVID-19 environment.

Updated advice from NSW Health

Updates to information about COVID-19 are provided on a regular basis. Families are encouraged to monitor the following website for the latest information [NSW Government website](#).

In the event of stay at home orders being applied by NSW Health due to an outbreak of COVID-19 there may be changes to school operations. Please ask your school about changes to operations and follow all the advice given by the staff at your school, including not entering school grounds for non-essential purposes if requested.

Learning from home

Students will be supported to [learn from home](#) in the following circumstances:

- If they are required to self-isolate due to being a close contact of a positive or suspected COVID-19 case.
- Where the school is directed under public health advice to only remain operational for on-site learning for children of essential workers due to an outbreak of COVID-19.

Learning from home takes many forms, including online and offline resources and printed materials such as worksheets and resources.

Attendance advice during on-site learning

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms.

NSW Health has requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the [COVID-19 clinics](#).

Students and staff with flu-like symptoms need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before being permitted to return to school.

Students who do not undertake a COVID-19 test will not be permitted to return to school for a 10-day period. Additionally, they must be symptom-free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school.

Attendance advice during on-site learning (continued)

Students who have seasonal allergic rhinitis or another condition that presents similarly to flu-like symptoms are still required to get tested for COVID-19 and return a negative test result. Where their symptoms continue beyond 10 days, students should provide documentation from their doctor confirming their symptoms are typical for their condition. If the student develops new or changed symptoms, they should get tested for COVID-19. Find more information about [COVID-19 symptoms](#).

COVID-19 testing for students with complex health or disability may be challenging. In these situations, schools will ask the parent or carer to have their child assessed by their medical practitioner. Where a medical practitioner determines that a COVID-19 test is not required, documentation must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to school.

A reminder for all schools and families

It is important that schools and families continue to follow the COVID-19 guidelines. In particular we wish to highlight the following:

- Schools must continue to:
 - implement personal hygiene, physical distancing, cleaning and record keeping practices.
 - where possible, use outdoor areas, weather permitting, or large open spaces to enable adequate physical distancing.
 - ensure that all visitors to a school site are well and symptom free, comply with sign-in arrangements including acknowledging they will comply with the [COVID-19 requirements for visitors, contractors and service providers](#) each time they visit. All visitors must also check in using the Service NSW QR code. Parents and carers who are dropping off or picking up students do not need to sign in or use the Service NSW QR code.

Wearing face masks and temperature screening

Anyone who wishes to wear their own mask at school will not be prevented from doing so.

During periods where Public Health Orders have mandated the wearing of face masks on public transport, students aged 13 years and over must comply with this direction. Staff must also comply with this direction when travelling on public transport as well as during excursions on public transport or by chartered or private transport service.

Widespread temperature screening is not required or recommended in schools.

School cleaning and hygiene supplies

Your school will continue to receive additional cleaning in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Target areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways and movement areas. There will also be additional cleaning of toilets and bubblers and topping up of supplies like soap.

Schools will continue to provide hygiene products including liquid soap, hand sanitiser, paper towels, surface spray and disinfectant wipes.



Responding to COVID-19 cases

There is a clear plan in place for schools to respond to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our schools. We are working closely with NSW Health and will communicate with parents if a situation arises. Read more about our [Response protocols for COVID-19 cases](#).

Transport

Bus services to and from schools continue to operate as normal. For travel advice to and from school, refer to [Transport for NSW](#).

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. You will not be charged for this service.