

COVID-smart Term 2 and winter readiness plan

Information current as at 22 April 2022

Developed in partnership with NSW Health



Acknowledgement of Country



On behalf of the students, teachers and parents of Summer Hill, we would like to pay respect to Australia's First Nations, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, as they share with us their Dreaming stories, songs, dances and works of art. We honour their spiritual connection to the sea, the sky and the land on which we live and learn.

Questions and Answers

Using the chat function

The chat function will be monitored throughout this webinar. We ask that you consider the next slide, 'What we'll cover in this session', prior to asking your question.

If we have time at the end, we will answer some questions.

Any question that we are unable to answer, will be responded to once this presentation is uploaded to the school website.

What we'll cover in this session



- COVID-smart layered baseline measures currently in place in all schools
 - Stay home and test if sick
 - Maximising ventilation and distancing
 - Enhanced cleaning
 - Focus on personal hygiene
 - Staff required to meet vaccination guidelines
 - Students encouraged to be vaccinated
 - Staff and students encouraged to get flu vaccine
- What's new in Term 2?
- Additional temporary measures for individual schools if local conditions require them
- Further information and questions

What you need to know about our return to school in Term 2 and winter readiness plan

Our COVID-smart measures have been developed with NSW Health to minimise transmission and keep schools open in 2022.

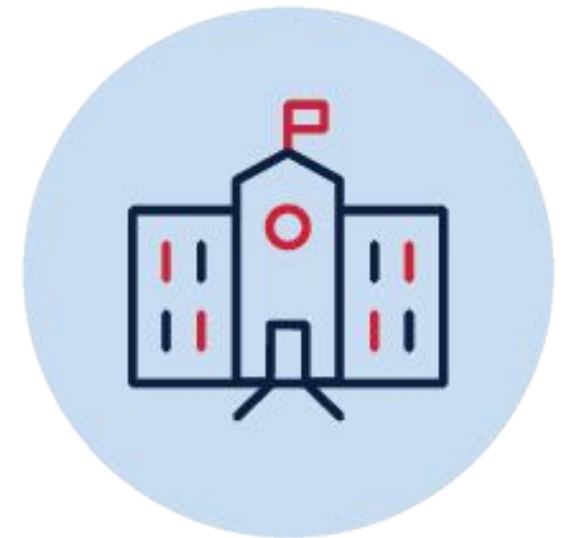
With the winter season fast approaching, NSW Health and the department have designed a layered system which provides us with COVID-normal settings and additional temporary settings to be implemented when needed, for example if there are increased levels of COVID-19 transmission at our school or in the community.

All guidance and settings are evidence-based and will provide additional levels of protection when needed.



COVID-normal layered settings at our school

- Students and staff should stay home if sick. If you/your child show any COVID-19 symptoms you/they should stay home and get tested (RAT or PCR). Always register a positive RAT with Service NSW.
- Maximise ventilation and distancing wherever possible.
- Continued enhanced daily cleaning.
- Focus on personal hygiene.
- All staff and volunteers required to meet vaccination guidelines.
- Students and families strongly encouraged to get vaccinated.



Enhanced cleaning and personal hygiene

- We will continue to use best practice hygiene processes on school site.
- Our enhanced cleaning practices will focus on 'high-touch' areas that students and staff move through regularly.
- Hand soap, sanitiser and tissues will continue to be available for students and staff who need them while at school.



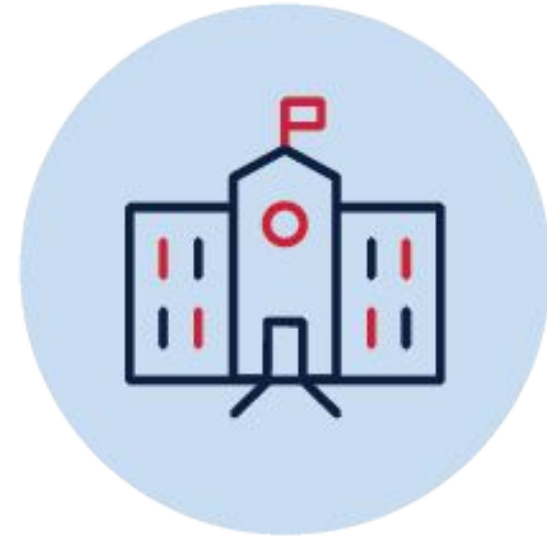
Vaccinations

- Under the current Public Health Order, all staff and volunteers on school sites must have at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination.
- We strongly recommend all eligible students (and their families) who are 5 years and older get vaccinated and those 16 years and older to get their booster shot.
- COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading it to others.
- Visit the [Find a vaccine clinic](#) website to book an appointment near you.
- Due to NSW Health's advice of a possible severe flu season this winter, students and staff are encouraged to get a flu vaccine when possible.
- We continue to encourage all eligible students, staff and their families to get the COVID-19 vaccines and booster shot (for those 16 years and over) to help keep our school open and our students and staff safe.



What's new in Term 2?

- Changes to close contact isolation requirements
- RATs
- Vaccinations (moving forward)
- Masks
- Responding to our local situation
- Ventilation
- Reducing the risk of illness this winter



Close contact isolation requirements

On 20 April 2022, the NSW Premier announced that close contacts could leave home isolation provided they follow specific NSW Health guidelines, including:

- Do not visit sensitive settings such as aged care and disability facilities
- Wear a face mask in indoor settings for 7 days (5 school days)
- Take daily RATs when coming into contact with others where practical
- Avoid contact with immunocompromised persons where possible
- Learn from home where practical
- Notify their educational facility they are a household contact and are not required to isolate provided they comply with the NSW Health guidelines

There is no change for positive cases or symptomatic people.



Close contact isolation requirements (cont.)

The Premier's announcement means that from Term 2, students and staff who are identified as close contacts will be able to attend school with the following risk mitigations in place:



- Parents/carers and staff must notify the school if they or their child is a close contact and intends to attend school or work
- Staff and **high school students** identified as close contacts **should** complete a daily RAT for 5 school days and **must** wear a mask in all indoor settings when at school
- **Primary school students** identified as close contacts should complete a daily RAT for 5 school days and are **recommended** to wear a mask in all indoor settings when at school
- Close contacts are not allowed to enter SSPs, support classes, assisted transport or attend overnight excursions for 7 days from identification as a contact.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

- The department will supply RATs to students and staff to support symptomatic testing and testing of close contacts returning to school in Term 2.
- RATs are to be used if your child develops symptoms, or if they are identified as a close contact and wish to return to school.
- The department will provide a one-off distribution of 5 RATs to all students and staff to support the continuity of face-to-face learning during Term 2.
- We will provide each student and staff member with **1 pack containing 5 RATs**
- Once these department-supplied RATs are exhausted, please continue to access PCR tests and store-purchased RATs which are now readily available in the community.



Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)



We are expecting the arrival of RATs in the next few weeks.

Once we receive these kits, we will let families know via SkoolBag. We will also communicate to families how the RATs will be distributed.

Vaccinations (moving forward)



- On 20 April 2022, the NSW Government announced that the current Public Health Order mandating vaccination for Education and Care Workers will not be extended beyond its current term.
- After the current PHO expires, vaccination requirements will be determined by risk-based assessments of specific employment settings.
- The Secretary's determination for all department staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is still in place.
- The department is working through this change with our Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing team and NSW Health and undertaking consultation with stakeholders in the coming weeks to determine how these changes will affect our staff and our school.
- We anticipate these will be confirmed in early Term 2 and will communicate them to you as soon as possible.

Masks



- Any student or staff member who chooses to wear a mask will be supported to do so.
- Mask wearing for staff and visitors may be temporarily introduced to act as a circuit breaker in certain circumstances where there is a rise in COVID-19 cases at our school/in our community. We'll provide more information about this in the coming slides.

Masks (continued)



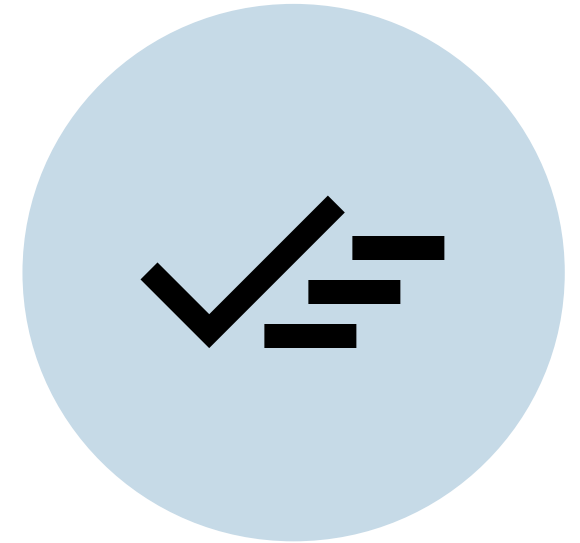
- The latest NSW Health advice **recommends** the practice of mask-wearing for people who have recovered from COVID-19 and recently completed their 7-day isolation period. This means wearing a **mask for an additional 3 days** (from days 8 to 10 after receiving a positive COVID-19 result) to help minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- The NSW Health guidelines for close contacts leaving isolation also require masks for indoor settings. This requirement is mandatory for high school students, and **strongly recommended** for primary school and ECE students.

Responding to our local situation

To minimise disruption to face-to-face learning and reduce in-school transmission of COVID-19, our school may be directed by the department's Health & Safety team to temporarily adopt some additional COVID-smart measures for a short period of time as a "circuit breaker". These additional measures may include:

- Rescheduling large indoor gatherings (such as indoor assemblies)
- Mask wearing for staff and visitors
- Postponing non-essential activities (such as camps and excursions).

Normally temporary measures would be introduced for a one-week period (5 school days), with the situation re-assessed at that point. Where additional measures are required, we will send out communications to our families and staff members to let you know the specific details.



Learning from home



- In cases where additional temporary measures have not been effective at reducing COVID-19 transmission, a cohort or cohorts may be directed to learn from home for a short period of time.
- Online learning and lessons have been developed by the department and will be shared online.
- We will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning via SkoolBag

Scenarios for when “circuit breaker” measures may be required

Schools will work with the department’s Health & Safety team to determine if/when “circuit breaker” temporary measures are required at our schools.

In the following slides we’ll show you some example scenarios of when temporary measures may or may not be introduced and why.



Scenario 1:

There is a rise in COVID-19 cases recorded in the school's local community, both inside and outside of school. This, combined with the relatively low levels of vaccination in the local area and school community, have led Health & Safety to advise the school to adopt the following temporary measures as a "circuit breaker":

- Masks to be worn by all staff and visitors
- Large indoor gathering postponed (including assemblies and student graduations).
- Non-essential activities postponed (including camps and excursions).

Temporary measures in place for one week (5 school days) start from Wednesday. The department will reassess the situation on the following Tuesday and inform the school of whether these temporary measures need to be extended past one week or if they can be lifted.

Scenario 2:

There is a rise in COVID-19 cases recorded within the school (staff and students). However, COVID-19 transmission within the local community remains low to moderate and there is a high vaccination rate among most age groups.

Due to the high vaccination rate and contained spread of the virus, Health & Safety advise the school to continue to undertake face-to-face learning with the usual COVID-smart measures in place as usual throughout the term.

Rate of transmission and severe illness in the local community will continue to be monitored by Health & Safety and the implementation of temporary additional measures will be revisited with this school if required.

Scenario 3:

Due to high levels of COVID-19 transmission, a school cohort is advised to move to learning from home for 5 days (Mon – Wed).

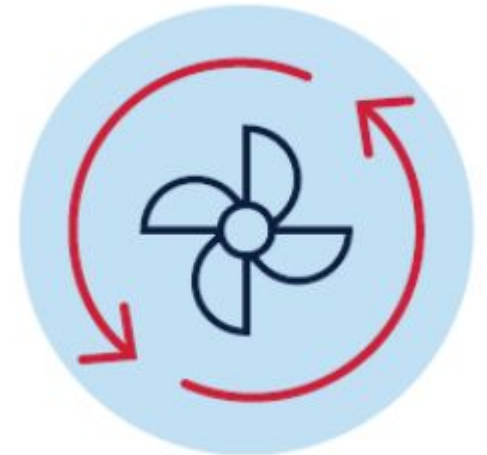
On Wednesday, COVID-19 levels in the community are reassessed by the department's Health & Safety team and the school is advised that students can return to face-to-face learning at school with the following additional measures in place for an additional 5 school days (Thurs – Wed):

- Masks to be worn by all staff and visitors
- Large indoor gathering postponed (including assemblies and student graduations).
- Non-essential activities postponed (including camps and excursions).

The following Wednesday Health & Safety will once again reassess the situation and advise the school on whether all temporary measures can be lifted.

Ventilation and distancing

- We will review environmental differences across NSW as part of the department's winter ventilation planning, ensuring that local climate at each school are considered.
- The department will provide local guidance to schools, including advice on maximising natural ventilation while balancing thermal comfort and the use of indoor and outdoor learning areas for school activities to support schools to adapt to local climate conditions through the winter months.
- Physical distancing of staff continues to be encouraged where practicable.



Reducing the risk of illness this winter

- We all have a role to play in helping protect our loved ones and our community from not only COVID-19 but also other viruses like the flu.
- Students and staff are encouraged to get a flu vaccine as NSW Health are predicting a bad flu season over winter 2022.
- The flu vaccine is available now from your local GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service.
- Flu vaccines are free for all children aged 6 months to 5 years, or for a small fee for those aged 5 years and older.



Reducing the risk of illness this winter (continued)

- Students and staff should stay home if sick. If you/your child show any COVID-19 symptoms you/they should stay home and get tested (RAT or PCR).
- Parents and carers must register positive RAT results from students via the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#) and notify the school as soon as possible.
- Report positive PCR test results from students to the school as soon as possible.
- Take a RAT before visiting vulnerable loved ones or going to large gatherings and events.



Further information and questions

Advice for families

Find updated information on the department's Advice for families page about our COVID-smart measures for Term 2.

education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

Guidelines if your child is exposed to COVID-19

Visit the NSW Health website for the latest guidance if your child is a household close contact.

health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/people-exposed-to-covid

Managing COVID-19 at home

Advice for managing COVID-19 at home, including when to leave isolation.

health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-confirmed

Thank you