

## **Advice for families**

# **Schools are operating full time while actively following health advice.**

Schools continue to be safe, and operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health advice. All students should be learning on campus unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.

The activities that are permitted at school will be conducted in a way that is safe and appropriate in the current environment. Those that remain on hold will be reviewed during the term and will recommence when appropriate based on health and other relevant advice.

## **School attendance**

Students should be at school unless:

- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition and the expected timeframe
- they are currently unwell.

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. Schools will make arrangements for students who present as unwell or have flu like symptoms to be sent home.

NSW Health have 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 will need to provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result before being permitted to return to school.

Schools are not required to conduct widespread temperature screening or mandate the wearing of a mask.

All schools will be vigilant when implementing infection control, physical distancing and personal hygiene protocols to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Schools will promote the need to follow good hygiene practices such as:

- regularly washing hands
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.

All students and staff who reside in or have visited Victoria must have a [permit to enter NSW](#) and are required to comply with health restrictions relevant to their permit which may include the need complete the 14 day self-isolation period commencing the last day they were in Victoria.

## School activities/school site usage

Additional safety measures for school activities have been put in place to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools for the remainder of Term 3.

The following principles underpin these measures:

- Where possible, students will stay within their relevant cohort group (i.e. class, year group, or stage) for all learning activities within their school in order to limit close contacts to the relevant student cohort.
- Inter school activities must remain within the local community or zone. This applies to all interschool sport and physical activities, curriculum activities, arts activities and extra-curricular activities organised or sponsored by the school. Schools must not travel outside of their local community area. Metropolitan schools cannot travel outside their local

area or to regional areas. Regional areas cannot travel into metropolitan areas or other regional areas. Find your school's **sport zone**.

- Only providers that are essential to the delivery of curriculum can continue to provide services and programs until further notice.
- Parents/carers and other non-essential visitors are not allowed on the school site.
- All group singing (choirs) and/or other chanting activities, as well as the use of wind instruments in group settings, are not permitted. Special arrangements are in place for HSC students.
- Year 11 and 12 students completing HSC subjects may continue to attend classes/activities relating to subjects only available on other campuses. All other students including Year 11 students not completing a HSC subject are not to attend other campuses for the remainder of Term 3. TAFE and other Vet programs may continue.
- School formals, dances, graduation or other social events are not permitted Schools may hold a Year 12 assembly at school without parents to recognise the completion of school. Schools may consider delaying events until later in the year.

## **Activities/site usage that can take place:**

- Use the school library
- Engage in sporting activities within restrictions
- Canteens and uniform shops can open at principal's discretion
- All VET work placements can proceed subject to the availability of placement, appropriate risk assessments, and a COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place. For any that can't proceed, refer to [the NESAW website](#).
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation and a COVID-19 Safety Plan is in place.
- Trade Training Centres can operate on school sites with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.
- School assemblies (limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors)
- Students may attend other schools for essential curriculum related reasons or placements (e.g. auditions or placement tests)
- Hydrotherapy pools can be used
- Incursions/external providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum (e.g. music tutors, sport skills development programs, science demonstrations, drama tutors, Healthy Harold).
- Day field trips to outdoor locations with no physical distancing requirements can take place (e.g. DoE Environmental Education Centres and sport and recreation facilities, trips to local river to collect water samples)
- Face-to-face TAFE attendance (see TAFE website for further information)
- School photos
- Department of Community and Justice services and programs
- Community use agreements involving adult attendance must have a COVID Safe Plan in place.
- SRE/SEE lessons within restrictions
- Work experience for students with a COVID Safe Plan in place.
- P&C meetings and events must be on-line only.
- Parent/teacher meetings will be online unless involving serious matters that require face to face discussion.

## **Activities on hold for Term 3**

The following events will be reconsidered in Term 3. For now, these events must remain on hold.

- Kindergarten orientation
- Year 7 orientation has been delayed until Term 4.
- School camps
- Excursions (other than field trips explained above)
- Interstate excursions
- International excursions (cancelled until further notice)
- All students (except year 12 students) attending classes/activities relating to subjects only available on other campuses
- School or community run playgroups
- Face to face professional learning for staff. Refer to the Physical distancing guidelines.
- Parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events
- Parent and carer volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers (note: canteen and uniform shop volunteers are permitted)
- School-based activities that involve large gathering of adults. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on- site cultural events.
- Interschool sport, drama, debating and other events that are not within the local community or zone including gala days and regional sporting carnivals.
- Certain large arts and sports events are cancelled or delayed. Many large- scale arts events and sports tournaments rely upon feeder activities and have long-lead time organisational arrangements. As a consequence, a number of annual activities are planned to be delayed or cancelled (refer to Impacts on arts and sports events programs)

## **Activities that are cancelled**

- Certain large arts and sports events are cancelled or delayed because they require feeder activities and have long-lead-time organisational arrangements. Please speak to your schools if you would like to know more.
- International excursions are cancelled until further notice.

## **Physical distancing**

Physical distancing of students in schools is not required under the AHPPC guidelines.

All teachers, support staff and parents must maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m).

Parents should ensure school pick up and drop off arrangements enable them to physically distance from one another and from staff.



## 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.

Your school has received supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and personal protective equipment. The school is able to order more as needed.

### Essential hygiene supplies

To support NSW schools during COVID-19 and help keep them safe, we've secured and dispatched a range of products including soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, disinfectant wipes and personal protective equipment.

Standard packs of hygiene products continue to be dispatched to schools. The packs include liquid soap, hand sanitiser, paper towels, surface spray disinfectant wipes. Quantities are calculated on the number of habitable spaces at each school. Schools can continue to request supplies through the School Supplies email address.

## 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 are scheduled to run as normal. For travel advice to and from school refer to the NSW [public transport service](#).

