

COVID-safe school operations



| | Overview | Guidance on mask wearing |
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| Level 1 School operating in a COVID-safe way | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff to not attend school if they have symptoms; negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school Parents, carers and visitors are allowed on site QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors COVID-19 Safety Plans required in line with NSW Health advice (such as large gatherings or events) Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in line with broader Health settings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines Community use in line with broader Health settings SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) operational Community Language Schools operational P&C on site Additional cleaning measures in place |
| Level 2 COVID-safe; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors | As per Level 1, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-essential visitors not allowed on site (including parents and carers) Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in outdoor settings only | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies must have COVID-safe practices in place and no parents or carers are allowed Excursions within local government area (LGA) only, and strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance |
| Level 3 COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed on site; further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors | As per Level 2, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask wearing requirements Introduction of staggered breaks and reduced mingling of student cohorts wherever possible Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted School canteens can operate with conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No assemblies No excursions No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services) Uniform shops are online No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) No Community Language School on site |
| Level 3 plus COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed for certain cohorts if vaccination rates achieved; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors | As per Level 3, with following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to school will be based on community settings such as adults fully vaccinated and levels of community transmission Only vaccinated staff on site Students in cohorts (including split classes) starting with staggered return of priority cohorts Exams as per Health approved COVID-safe HSC guide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimised interactions and contact within student cohorts Staff interactions limited with physical distancing Staggered access to school facilities and shared spaces such as libraries and canteens Drop-offs, pick-ups and break times staggered by cohort |
| Level 4 Learning from home encouraged; schools are open for families who need it | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are encouraged to keep their children at home, with no student to be turned away Schools activate plans to support continuity of education for all students learning from home | Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services) No canteens |
| Level 4 plus Minimal students and staff on site; learning from home encouraged; schools are open for families who need it | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools operate learning from home, with stricter guidance for students and staff on-site Schools are actively encouraged to further minimise students attendance with the support of increased community messaging Schools remain open with absolute minimum of staff – 2 staff are required on site for safety reasons, and only as many additional staff as required to maintain supervision and to meet immediate needs of the school. If a school requires more than 5 staff members to attend, they must consult with their Director, Educational Leadership | Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services) No canteens |