



27/01/2022

Return to School 2022

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to a new school year, an exciting time as our students start or return to their school journey. I want to share how we are building on our experiences of the last 2 years and continuing to safeguard our school community while keeping our school open, where we know the best learning happens.

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and strongly recommended for all primary students.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or students starting at a new school.
- Students will be kept in their stage groups on school grounds, with staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts. We will continue with the processes of last term.
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.

Rapid antigen testing. When and how to pick up the kits?

We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1. Students will be able to pick up their tests in the following order on Monday 31 January:

- Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) - 9.30am - 10.00am
- Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) - 10.30am - 11.00am
- Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) - 11.30am - 12.00pm
- Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) - 12.30pm - 1.00pm

If you have more than 1 child, you will be able to pick up your family pack at any of the above times. All parents must wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Please assist by collecting the RATs and leaving immediately from the Queen St gate.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

Additional information

- School staff will not be administering the rapid antigen tests to students.
- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 4 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school. We recommend you test your child on Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week.
- If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT result, they need to:
 - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
 - notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible
 - follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days.

Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

Unwell at school

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative and they are displaying no symptoms OR they are diagnosed as another condition such as hayfever, the student or staff member can return to school.

What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Use of surgical masks

All staff will be required to wear masks indoors. No vented or cloth masks should be worn. Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors. Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument. Please provide a fresh mask for your child each day.

For more information, refer to [Face masks in NSW](#)

Visitors on school sites and vaccinations

No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops and canteens must be fully vaccinated.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students must be fully vaccinated.

All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) to book an appointment near you.

Other key measures

Ventilation

We will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines that natural ventilation is the most effective measure so we will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows.

We will continue to use outdoor settings where possible.

Cleaning

We continue to have enhanced cleaning focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas.

Physical distancing

We will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and maintain 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.

Invitation to a virtual school assembly

To welcome you and our students back to school and to share guidance about the settings for Term 1, we will be holding a ZOOM meeting on Friday 28 January at 4pm.

The link to join will be emailed to you Friday before the meeting.

During the meeting we will outline our school's plan and cover many of the things you will need to know for the return of school in Term 1 2022, including testing, masks, vaccinations, ventilation, visitor protocols and potential learning from home arrangements.

If you can't make the meeting, we will share an outline of our return to school plan following the meeting.

We look forward to connecting with you at the meeting.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term. We are really looking forward to having students be onsite and learning with their teachers face to face.

Yours Sincerely

Ms Monica Marchiello