

Back to school 2022

From 7 February to 4 March

- ▶ Schools will implement COVID-safe measures.
- ▶ Limit visitors on school sites, with exceptions for parents and carers of students experiencing vulnerability, and all students attending Early Childhood Development Programs, Kindergarten, Prep or Year 1.
- ▶ Priority access to Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) at Queensland Health testing clinics.

- ▶ Suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies and large gatherings.
- ▶ Limit a number of activities including:
 - External contractors unless work is critical.
 - Face-to-face parent-teacher interviews, staff meetings and professional development.

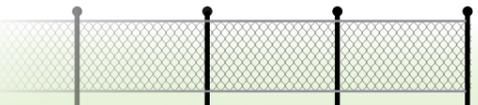
▶ 31 January

Years 11 and 12
Remote learning



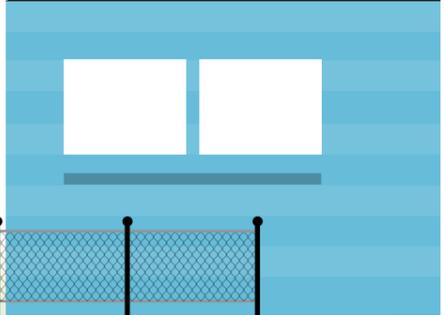
▶ 7 February

Kindy to Year 12
All students onsite



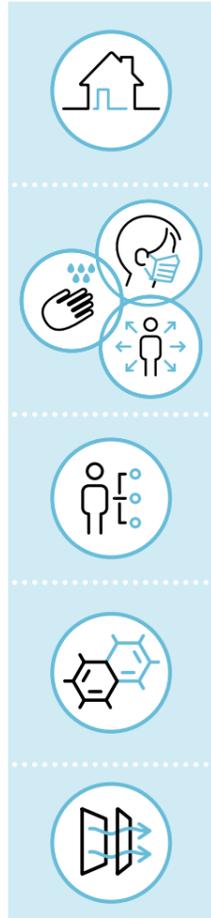
Students experiencing vulnerability and children of essential workers

Onsite supervision from 24 January



COVID-safe measures

Queensland school communities are using a range of COVID-19 prevention and health measures to limit the risk of transmission:



Staying home when sick, getting tested when exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, and following Queensland Health advice for positive cases or close contacts.

Practising good hygiene – including regular hand washing, use of hand sanitiser, wearing face masks when required, minimising gatherings or assemblies and physical distancing.

Using the Queensland Check-In App to register any visitors.

Cleaning including sick rooms and student or child service areas, playground equipment and play materials, with extra attention on high-touch point surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, desks, toilets, taps and sinks.

Ensuring good airflow in learning spaces using natural and mechanical ventilation.



Keep up to date with your school's communication. Regularly updated back to school information is available on the department's website.

Priority RATs for staff and students



If staff or students are sick, do not attend school.

Staff and students should attend their local Queensland Health testing clinics where they will be prioritised to receive a RAT. If a staff member or student develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be able to access free RATs from their school.

Parents/carers will need to collect their child and administer the test at home.

The department is currently providing RATs to staff entering remote discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and boarding schools.

Mandatory vaccinations



Mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations are required for all people working or delivering a service at a school including staff, contractors and volunteers.

Students of all ages can attend school regardless of their vaccination status.

Face masks



Students in Years 3–6 will be provided with masks and strongly encouraged to wear them when physical distancing is not possible.

All high school students, including those who are under 12 years of age, must wear a mask unless they are seated or are able to maintain a 1.5 metre distance from others.

All school staff and childcare workers are required to wear masks while standing or moving about indoors, but may remove their mask when seated or if able to maintain a 1.5 metre distance from others while teaching or interacting with students or when outdoors.

There are a number of exceptions, including for children under 12 (unless they are in Year 7) and people with specific medical conditions or disabilities.

Schools will have a supply of masks to use as needed.

Ventilation



Ventilation is one of a range of measures that may be used to minimise transmission of COVID-19. The department has carefully considered expert advice from health authorities including Safe Work Australia, the World Health Organisation and the Doherty Institute and provided advice to schools.

Our excellent Queensland weather means that ventilation of learning spaces can often occur naturally by opening windows and doors, or relocating learning to outdoor settings. Schools can also ensure there is mechanical ventilation through fans and air conditioning systems.

Schools will have access to CO2 measuring devices and after considering all actions to improve ventilation, if it is deemed necessary, the department will provide portable air purifiers.

This plan covers Kindergarten on school sites, Early Childhood Development Programs and Prep to Year 12. The COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly and we remain prepared to support students and their learning should future outbreaks or changes in the Queensland Health response to the pandemic occur. Therefore, this document is subject to change. Our guidance material and frequently asked questions are regularly updated on the Department of Education's COVID-19 website. Independent and Catholic schools may have different arrangements. Contact your school to confirm their plans.