Families with children starting Kindy or Prep

Starting Kindy or Prep is a major milestone in a child's learning journey. We want all children and families to have a positive transition and schools are ready to safely welcome you. Your school will communicate with you about how they will manage the flow of children and families on school sites over the start of the school year to ensure a COVID-safe learning environment for your child.

Outside school hours care

Before and after school care will operate as normal, subject to workforce capacity and Queensland Health advice. Parents should contact their provider.

Workforce planning

Your school will have a plan in place to ensure continuity of learning for all students and minimise disruption to student learning. During the year, there may be times when schools need to adjust their timetable, combine classes, or bring in relief staff to manage any workforce challenges. There may even be a need to close a school on departmental or health advice — in the same manner we would normally take for other health related concerns such as a gastro outbreak.

In line with the Queensland Government's Managing COVID-19 in workplaces, cleaning will involve a two-step precautionary clean comprising a normal hygienic clean followed by sanitising. Queensland Health advise this is sufficient for schools and other workplaces to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Learning@home

Schools have contingency plans in place to minimise disruption to student learning. This includes access to learning packages for Kindy and Prep to Year 12, with parent support materials and advice for school leaders.

In addition, students and families can access teaching and learning materials on our learning@home site.

Senior assessment and exams

Consideration will be given to the nature and frequency of assessments and examinations should major disruptions to continuity of student learning occur.

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority will publish updates regarding curriculum, teaching and learning, assessment and reporting as required.

Management of positive COVID cases

Queensland Health has advised the following when COVID-19 cases occur at a school:

- Communication will be provided to staff and families that there has been a COVID-19 case (it is important to know that specific information of the case will remain confidential). This advice may be provided to you as part of regular updates to the community.
- Community members will be advised to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and stay home if unwell.
- Follow any direction provided by the Public Health Unit (PHU) or Queensland Health.

All individuals must follow Queensland Health advice in relation to isolation and testing.

In the event where there are multiple COVID-19 cases, your school will work closely with the PHU about any requirement to close. This includes a two-step precautionary clean as outlined in the Queensland Government's Managing COVID-19 in workplaces.

Quarantine and isolation

If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to isolate at home and cannot attend school while isolating. More information on isolation is available.

Should a student's household test positive for COVID-19, then the student will be required to quarantine as a close contact and cannot attend school while in quarantine. More information on quarantine is available.

If a staff member's household tests positive for COVID-19, then the staff member is required to quarantine as a close contact. As education is a critical industry, the staff member's employer may deem their role as critically essential and the staff member may be able to leave quarantine to undertake the critically essential work. A number of requirements must be met before the staff member can leave quarantine.

Support for families and students

There are resources available to help families and students care for their mental health and wellbeing at this time.

Queensland Government