

## **An updated guide to NSW school students for Term 3 as of Wednesday 19/8/2020**

(Please note that this is a constantly evolving situation, and continues to change in response to the current climate)

### **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

### **Latest COVID-19 case locations in NSW**

Check the Latest COVID-19 case locations in NSW (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw>) and follow the recommended actions if you have been in a location where there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19. We encourage members of the community to monitor this site. Please follow the relevant health advice if you have been at any of the locations at the specified dates and times.

The locations along with the times and dates of when the cases were identified can be found on the NSW COVID-19 website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw>)

### **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 (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/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.

## 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.
- Interschool 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.
- 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.
- School formals, dances, graduation or other social events are not permitted.

## Activities/site usage that can take place

- Use the school library
- Engage in sporting activities within restrictions
- Canteens and uniform shops can open at the principal's discretion
- 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)
- 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)
- Department of Community and Justice services and programs
- If a P&C meeting is necessary, it must be on-line only
- Parent/teacher meetings will be online or by phone 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
- Excursions (other than field trips explained above)
- School or community-run playgroups
- Face-to-face professional learning for staff
- 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.

## 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.**

## Tightened NSW-Victoria border restrictions

From 7 August, the border restrictions will be tightened further with the border zone defined to townships along the Murray River including Mildura, Wodonga and Echuca.

All students and staff who reside in or have visited Victoria must have a permit to enter NSW (<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit>) and are required to comply with health restrictions relevant to their permit which may include the need to complete the 14 day self-isolation period commencing the last day they were in Victoria.