

Term 3 2022 COVID-smart measures for schools

Being together in a classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow.

Since COVID-19 remains a relatively mild illness for most children, the NSW Government is committed to school safety in 2022.

Read more detail from NSW Education on [COVID-19 advice for families](#) launch.

COVID-19 settings in NSW

[COVID-19 settings in NSW](#) were updated from 22 April 2022.

Household contacts are required to follow the [NSW Health household and close contact guidelines](#) for 7 days from the last time someone in their household tested positive to COVID-19.

In line with the [updated rules](#) for the general community, teachers and students who are [household contacts](#), but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, can return to school, except those working in schools for specific purposes, support units and classes and assisted travel programs.

Attending school if a student is a household contact

To return to school, all staff and students must notify the school that they are a household contact and do the following for the next 5 school days:

- All staff and students should do a daily [rapid antigen test](#) before school.
- All staff and secondary school students must [wear a face mask](#) indoors.
- Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear a [face mask](#) indoors.

Based on expert advice, the NSW Government has made a record investment in equipping schools with additional air quality measures, including:

- Providing air purifiers in colder climates
- Installing mechanical ventilation
- Checking air conditioners and heaters
- Providing resources for school principals on recommended ventilation practices.

Outbreaks of COVID-19

A school-level outbreak of COVID-19 may trigger the Department of Education to direct the school to adopt one or more of the following additional COVID-smart measures for a short period of time:

- Ceasing large indoor gatherings
- Ceasing off-site and inter-school activities
- Mask wearing for adults and high school students
- Limiting visitors to schools
- Separating cohorts of students
- Symptomatic use of RATs
- Learning from home.

Schools, students and families will also be reminded about essential hygiene practices and to stay at home if they are unwell.

The winter plan continues into Term 3 2022.

Parents must watch for COVID-19 symptoms

If your child is unwell – even with [mild symptoms](#) – you must keep them home and get them tested.

If children have any symptoms, they should take a COVID-19 test.

If symptoms continue your child should stay home and take another COVID-19 test.

If that test is also negative, your child may return to school if another diagnosis is confirmed such as hay fever.

- It is important that students do not attend school if they are unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19.
 - Rapid antigen tests can produce false negative results and symptoms of other illnesses can also be similar to COVID-19, including flu, the common cold and stomach bugs.
 - Health advice is that students who are sick should always stay home to rest and recover and avoid putting other students and staff at risk of getting sick.
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- Read more about [when to get tested for COVID-19](#) and the [changes to testing](#).
 - Understand more about [rapid antigen tests](#).
 - **Masks**
 - Students or staff who are an asymptomatic [household contact](#) and taking daily rapid antigen tests must [wear a face mask](#) indoors.
 - It's strongly recommended that children under 12 also wear a [face mask](#) indoors.