



Ashmore State School

An Independent Public School

Working together to ensure that every student is understood, engaged and successful at school, going on to live a life of choice, not a life of chance.

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Principal
Mrs Karen Brown

Deputy Principal
Mrs Natasha Parker

Deputy Principal
Ms Regan Veivers

Deputy Principal
Ms Leisa Wells

Head of Curriculum
Mr Jason Harvey

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Ms Natalie McKay

Business Manager
Mr Dennis Swenson

Guidance Officer
Mr Phil Pearce

Website
<https://ashmoress.eq.edu.au>

The Queensland
Department of
Education and Training
trading as: Education
Queensland
International (EQI)
CRICOS Provider No.
00608A

Principal Update

Update 4: 2 February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we work together to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

This is a large update this time. I feel it is important that you have all of the information available to you before school starts next week.

Some important points (new information has been highlighted for you):

In response to the Queensland Government's recently announced 2022 Back to School Plan and after a range of consultations with key stakeholders of Ashmore State School, the following arrangements around school operations have been put in place. These operational arrangements will remain in place until the 2022 Back to School Plan is reviewed during the week of 28 February – 4 March. Further recommendations and advice will come to schools during that week.

COVID-Safe Measures:

Ashmore State School continues to apply a range of COVID-19 prevention and health measures to limit the risk of transmission: **staying at home when sick, practising good hygiene, using the QLD Check-in App to register visitors, cleaning – high traffic/touchpoint areas, service areas and play equipment, ensuring good air flow and ventilation.**

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for students – administered by parents/caregivers:

1. Only **PARENTS OR CAREGIVERS** have the authority to administer Rapid Antigen Tests to their children.
2. Ashmore State School Staff will **NOT** administer a RAT test to **ANY** student.
3. The school will receive a limited supply of RATs by the end of this week.
4. RAT tests will only be made available to the parent/caregiver of a student who becomes unwell **at school**
5. Parents/caregivers collect their child from school and administer the test from home.
6. The school will not supply additional RATs for other family members, as supplies are very limited.

Priority Access to Rapid Antigen Tests at Queensland Health Testing Clinics:

1. If your child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 you need to get them tested.

2. If you do not wish to administer a RAT test to your child yourself, school children have priority access to RAT testing at any Queensland Health testing clinic.

Management of student illness:

- If your child is unwell, do not send them to school.
- If your child is exhibiting COVID-19 (Cold or Flu) Symptoms – isolate them and get them tested, keep them in isolation until you get the result.
- In every instance, follow the advice from Queensland Health - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/i-have-covid/first-steps-if-you-have-covid>

What do I do if my child is confirmed positive for COVID-19 or are a confirmed close contact?

- Contact the school with this information – this is very important.
- Specific information about your child's situation will remain confidential at all times.
- Isolate your child and follow QLD Health Guidelines
- Only return them to school once they are confirmed negative for COVID-19 and the 7-day isolation period has been completed.
- In every instance, follow the advice from Queensland Health - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/i-have-covid/first-steps-if-you-have-covid>

What happens if my child becomes unwell at school?

- Your child will be sent to the school sick bay as part of the usual school procedures.
- If your child is experiencing COVID-19 (Cold or Flu) symptoms they will:
 - Be isolated from other children in a school sick bay
 - Have their temperature taken
 - Parents will be contacted and requested to collect the child from school immediately
 - Parents will be offered a RAT Test to administer at home
 - **If your child is confirmed positive for COVID-19, inform the school immediately, isolate for 7 days and only return your child to school once they test negative and have completed the 7-day isolation period**
 - In every instance, follow the advice from Queensland Health - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/i-have-covid/first-steps-if-you-have-covid>
 - In order to keep staff supervising children in sick bay safe from infection, children with COVID-19 (Cold or Flu) symptoms may be required to wear a mask until collected by their parent.

Face Masks:

Students:

- It is strongly recommended by the Chief Health Officer and the AAHPC that students in Years 3 – 6 wear a mask where physical distancing is not possible and I encourage families to make the right decision here in order to keep everybody safe while at school.
- Please contact your child's teacher if you do not wish your child to wear a mask while at school.
- Ashmore SS has a supply of age appropriate mask. These have been issued to Year 3 – 6 teachers.
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Staff:

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

Visitors to School Sites (parents, caregivers, contractors):

- Masks are required by all visitors whilst on-site, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times as physical distancing is extremely difficult to maintain at that time.

Ventilation:

- All classrooms have been examined and have appropriate ventilation.
- Teachers are encouraged to conduct some learning experiences outside the classroom each day

Mandatory Vaccination:

Children:

- Students of all ages can attend school regardless of their vaccination status
- **Ashmore State School Staff will NOT vaccinate or encourage/organise the vaccination of ANY Ashmore SS student.**
- **Vaccination of children is the responsibility of parents and caregivers only.**
- Ashmore State School has not been directed by the Department of Education or the Chief Health Officer to make enquiries about vaccination status with children or their parents/caregivers.

Staff and Service Providers:

- All people working or delivering a service at a school including staff, contractors and volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 – two doses.
- The school has processes in place for checking the vaccination status of all staff, contractors, volunteers and service providers.

Parents/Caregivers:

- Parents and caregivers can attend school (subject to the school operational arrangements) regardless of their vaccination status.

Limiting Visitors on the school site:

- **Parents of Prep and Year 1 students (only) are permitted** on-site at the following times:
Drop-off: 8.45am – 9.15am
Pick-up: 2.30pm – 3.15pm
- **Parents of Year 2 – Year 6 students are not permitted** on the school site at this stage. This situation will be reviewed during the week of 28 February – 4 March.
- **Staggered finishes for students** will be in place until Friday 4 March – see attachment for more detailed information.
- **There are some exemptions for parents of vulnerable students (New enrolments, medical issues, anxiety/mental health).**
 - Your child's teacher or Deputy Principal will be in contact with you if your child falls into the 'vulnerable' category.
 - The school will determine if a child meets the guidelines as vulnerable.
 - If you believe your child is vulnerable and requires you to escort them to the classroom, please contact the Deputy Principal for your child's year level or the Principal.

- Parents/caregivers of students **designated by the school as vulnerable** are permitted on site at the following times:

Drop-off: 8.45am – 9.15am

Pick-up: 2.30pm – 3.15pm

- Masks are required for all adults while on-site
- Social Distancing must be applied in all instances and parents are strongly discouraged from lingering on the school campus or around the school boundary or gathering in groups.
- If you are unwell, please do not enter school grounds.
- At this stage, parents cannot access classrooms or the class teachers
- Any meetings with class teachers must be pre-arranged and occur either over the phone or through an on-line platform.
- The **school office** will be accessible, by phone or email, between 8:30am until 3.30pm each day. The Office will be closed to the public however, all services will be provided by telephone or online to ensure we can serve you. Payments to the Finance Office will be via BPoint, otherwise please email admin@ashmoress.eq.edu.au to make alternate payment arrangements.
- The **Tuckshop** is open for on-line orders only, via Flexischool, there will be no 'over the counter' sales of any items to students during this time. Flexischool orders close at 8.30am each morning.
- Access to the **Uniform Shop** will be appointment only, please phone the P&C Uniform Shop on 56561367 to make an appointment.
- **Book Packs:** class teachers will be in contact in their welcome email, being sent to families from today. This letter will contain details for Book Pack drop-offs. If unsure, contact your child's teacher.

Suspension of Camps, Excursions, Assemblies and Large Gatherings:

- These arrangements will be in place for a period of 4 weeks.
- The school is optimistically continuing to book and organise excursions, incursions, assemblies and camps into the future.
- Further information will be provided for students and parents once the return to school plan is reviewed in 4 weeks.

What will Occur?

1. Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 Orientation activities – Friday 4 February

- The Deputy Principals (Natasha Parker and Leisa Wells) will be in contact with families with the arrangements for these activities

2. Fitter, Faster, Stronger: Joel Campbell will be in contact with families with further information.

3. Regular class activities

4. Regular School Sport activities & Health and Physical Education.

What won't occur (for 4 weeks from February 7):

1. Camps
2. Excursions
3. Incursions
4. In person Assemblies
5. Choir
6. Clubs
7. Library Visits for students
8. Parent Volunteers
9. 'In person' parent meetings with teachers (pre-arranged on-line and phone options available, contact your child's teacher)

Workforce Planning:

Ashmore State School is committed to ensure continuity of learning for all students and minimise disruption to student learning.

During the year there may be times when we need to adjust class timetables, combine classes or bring in relief staff to manage workforce challenges. There may even be a need to close our school on departmental or Queensland Health advice – this would be a last resort.

Please note that, in the instance of large staff shortages due to illness and isolation your child/children may be placed in age appropriate groupings and will be supervised in classrooms. At times they may not be supervised by their 2022 allocated classroom teacher.

The school will keep parents informed as and if any changes occur.

Learning@home (continuity of learning) – support children who are not at school:

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or isolation the following resources are available for them to access from home:

- All students enrolled at Ashmore SS have been connected to SeeSaw, so both parents and students can contact their class teacher to remain connected.
- Students can access general learning tasks via the Department of Education online resource 'Learning at Home' <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home> This site contains a range of student learning material and links to other high-quality education websites.

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the Queensland Government website: <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>

Further information for parents has been developed including frequently asked questions: <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19/frequently-asked-questions>

Please stay in contact and send through your questions if they have not been answered through my weekly communications.

I thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Brown