

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.

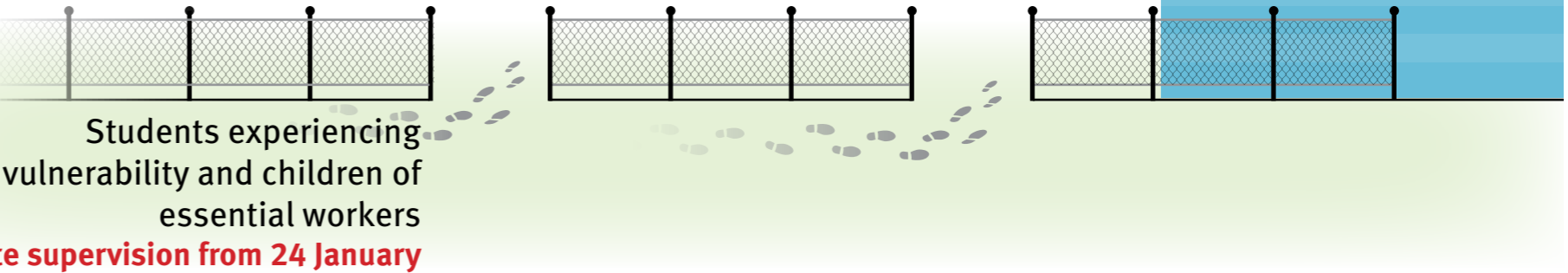
31 January

Years 11 and 12
Remote learning






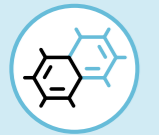

7 February

Kindy to Year 12
All students onsite



COVID-safe measures

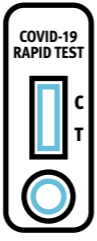
Queensland school communities are using a range of COVID-19 prevention and health measures to limit the risk of transmission:

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

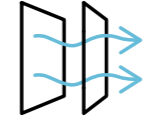
All high school students, including those who are under 12 years of age, must wear a mask unless they are seated or are able to maintain a 1.5 metre distance from others.

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.

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](#).

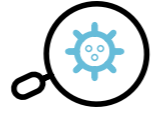
Senior assessment and exams



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.

