

# COVID-safe school operations

## Overview

## Guidance on mask wearing

<b>Level 1</b>  School operating in a COVID-safe way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students and staff to not attend school if they have symptoms; negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school</li> <li>Parents, carers and visitors are allowed on site</li> <li>QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors</li> <li>COVID-19 Safety Plans required in line with NSW Health advice (such as large gatherings or events)</li> <li>Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in line with broader Health settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines</li> <li>Community use in line with broader Health settings</li> <li>SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) operational</li> <li>Community Language Schools operational</li> <li>P&amp;C on site</li> <li>Additional cleaning measures in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and students are supported to wear a mask or face covering should they choose to do so</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>  COVID-safe; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 1, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-essential visitors not allowed on-site (including parents and carers)</li> <li>Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home</li> <li>Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in outdoor settings only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assemblies must have COVID-safe practices in place and no parents or carers are allowed</li> <li>Excursions within Local Government Area only, and strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While in indoor settings in schools, masks or face coverings are recommended for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>  COVID-safe; further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 2, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mask wearing requirements</li> <li>Introduction of staggered breaks and reduced mingling of student cohorts wherever possible</li> <li>Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No assemblies</li> <li>No excursions</li> <li>No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services)</li> <li>No uniform shops</li> <li>No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes)</li> <li>No Community Language School on site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While on school sites, masks or face coverings are required for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above</li> </ul>
<b>Level 4</b>  Learning from home encouraged, schools are open for families who need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families are encouraged to keep their children at home, with no student to be turned away</li> <li>Schools activate plans to support continuity of education for all students learning from home</li> </ul>	Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No community use (except early childhood services)</li> <li>No canteens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While on school sites, masks or face coverings are required for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above</li> </ul>
<b>Level 4 plus</b>  Minimal students and staff on site; learning from home encouraged, schools are open for families who need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools operate learning from home, with stricter guidance for students and staff on-site</li> <li>Schools are actively encouraged to further minimise students attendance with the support of increased community messaging</li> <li>Schools remain open with absolute minimum of staff – 2 staff are required on site for safety reasons, and only as many additional staff as required to maintain supervision and to meet immediate needs of the school. If a school requires more than 5 staff members to attend, they must consult with their Director, Educational Leadership</li> </ul>	Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No community use (except early childhood services)</li> <li>No canteens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While on school sites, masks or face coverings are required for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above</li> </ul>

For more detailed guidance, refer to the department's website.

[education.nsw.gov.au](https://education.nsw.gov.au)

As at 12 August 2021