

# What we'll cover in this session

## Term 4 return to school



- Key dates
- COVID-safe practices at our school
- Vaccinations
- Out of school hours care
- Where to find out more
- Questions and answers

Information current as at 8 October 2021  
Developed in partnership with NSW Health

# What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens.

We are taking a layered-approach to ensuring our school is safe for our staff and students.

Our guidance was developed with NSW Health and is evidence-based to give us multiple layers of protection.

## COVID-safe operations for schools

Department preschools, Kindergarten & Year 1	All other years	
18 October	25 October	
		
		

# Key dates for our staged return

It's important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order :

- from 18 October – Kindergarten & Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups (Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).



Primary school students return

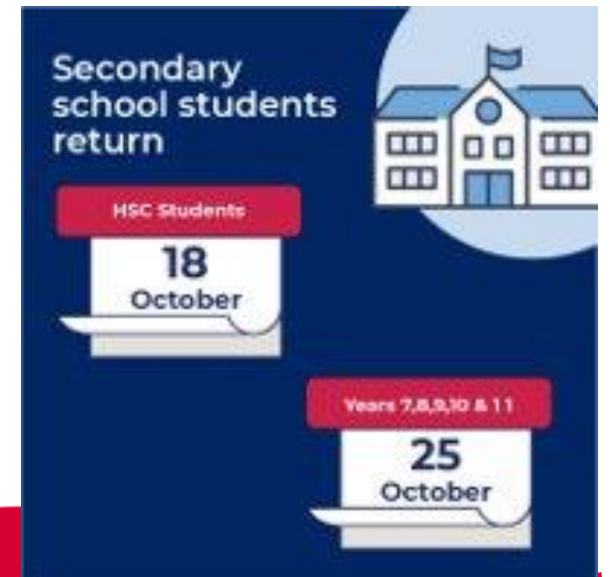
Department preschools, Kindergarten & Year 1

18 October

Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

25 October

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white schoolhouse icon in a light blue circle on the right. Two white calendar-style date cards are shown: one for 18 October and another for 25 October. Red banners above the dates specify the student groups: 'Department preschools, Kindergarten & Year 1' for the 18th and 'Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6' for the 25th.



Secondary school students return

HSC Students

18 October

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

25 October

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white schoolhouse icon in a light blue circle on the right. Two white calendar-style date cards are shown: one for 18 October and another for 25 October. Red banners above the dates specify the student groups: 'HSC Students' for the 18th and 'Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11' for the 25th.

# Keeping student groups together

As we return to school students will be kept in their stage cohorts as much as possible to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment.

This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts together where possible.

K-3 students will enter using the Baden Place gate and Years 4-6 will use the Great Western Highway gate in the morning and afternoon.

Students will line up in a designated place determined by the class teachers and the K-6 will not interact together as school group in mornings, after breaks or for sport or for interaction meetings. K-3 will play in one area and Years 4-6 in another area.

We will be minimizing all student interaction for going to the toilet at the same after breaks through timetabling. Students will be able to use the toilet as required.



# Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading it to others.

All staff required on site supporting the return to school are fully vaccinated.

All contractors, volunteers and students on student placement on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.



# Mask wearing for students and staff



## Masks

Masks will be required for all staff and all students

in Year 7 and above while they are indoors and outdoors on school sites unless eating or exercising.

Masks are strongly recommended for primary students both indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising.

Students should bring their own masks where possible, but schools will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are also required for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating.

# Fitting a mask on a younger child

Please send your child with a mask and a spare in their bag. We'll have some on site too.

We have a graphic from NSW Health on how to fit a mask properly – please have this conversation with your child.

While masks are not required in the Public Health Order for our primary students they are strongly recommended by NSW Health and the department has taken the decision that they are required as an important layer of protection for our staff – particularly while younger students are not yet vaccinated.

There are some exemptions around mask wearing – eating and exercising being the key times. Please have a look at the NSW Government website for the full list of exemptions. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/changes/face-mask-rules>

**Tips on wearing a mask**

**NSW GOVERNMENT**

Children can wear small cloth or surgical masks when leaving home, including going to school

You can remove your mask when eating or exercising

Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask

Use a clean mask every day. Do not reuse single-use masks

Wash and dry reusable masks after use and store in a clean, dry place

Wash or sanitise your hands before putting on or taking off your mask



# Fitting a mask to younger children

How to wear a mask 

How to wear a mask 

How to wear a mask 

How to wear a mask 

-  

**1** Ensure the mask covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly under your chin, over the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face
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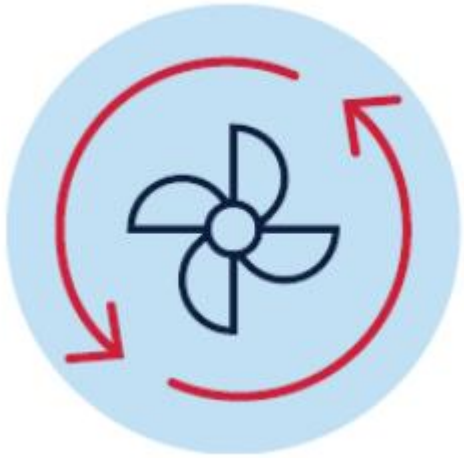
**2** Make sure the ear loops are firmly in place
-  

**3** Fold the metal strip in the mask around your nose so it stays in place
-  

**4** Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask



# Ventilation



Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air.

All learning spaces and offices will need all windows open at all times to ensure cross flow ventilation.

Students and teachers will be using outdoor learning spaces at times throughout the days.

# School activities

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise.

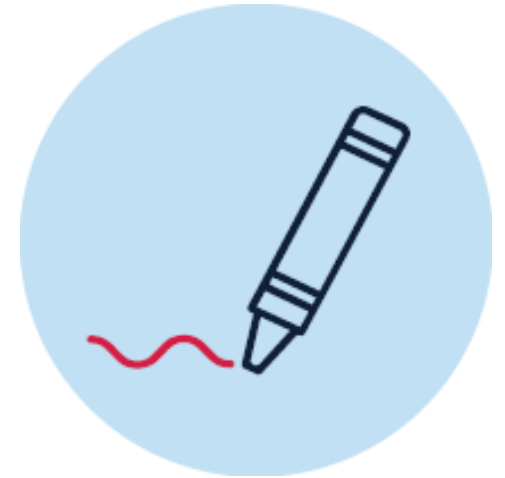
This includes celebrations like assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events. If NSW Health advice changes, then we will let you know about changes as soon as possible.



# Orientation and transition to school

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health.

We'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's Kindergarten orientation program.



# SCOOSH - Outside of school hours care



Outside of school hours care settings operating on school sites will follow the same COVID-safe guidelines as public schools including the requirement to be fully vaccinated.

# Further information and questions

All of our students are expected to be back at school for their staggered return dates. After this date we will only be supporting learning from home where this is required by NSW Health to do so.

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time we will continue to provide learning from home activities and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning. We will use Facebook and emails to communicate emergency communication if required. Please ensure we have your most up to date current email and mobile.

Find updated information on the department's Advice for families page to support students who are anxious about the return to school – or get in touch with us directly.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

# Thank you

## Got It!



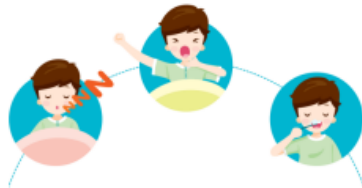
### Re-establishing routines

Will your child and family need some adjustment to get back into school learning?

Getting your child and family into a regular routine in the weeks leading up to returning to school will help make the transition and change easier to manage.

#### The week before:

- Return to usual school day wake up, morning and bedtime routines.
- Ensure they are getting enough sleep.
- Practice having breakfast, lunch and snack times that coincide with typical school breaks.
- Create a calendar that counts down the days until their return.
- Practice getting ready to go to school e.g. finding their uniform and packing their bag.



#### The day before:

- Include your child in packing their school bag and getting their uniform ready.
- Talk with them about the plans for the next day including the morning routine, what to expect when they arrive at school and afternoon pick up plans.



#### The morning of:

- Allow extra time to get ready.
- Keep yourself calm to help your child remain calm.
- Repeat all the information you discussed with them the previous night about what their day will look like.



## Got It!



### Saying Goodbye at the Gate

Are you worried about how the first back to school drop off will go?

School drop offs might look different when school resumes, some children and parents might find saying goodbye difficult. We can prepare our children for this by:

#### Planning ahead:

- Talk about whatever details you already know – who will be where to drop and pick them up. Reassure them the teachers will help them if any changes are made.
- Create a quick goodbye 'ritual' for each child e.g. a secret handshake, special wave or triple kiss just for this occasion.
- Organise for a buddy to walk into school with them or for them to keep a special item that helps them feel "brave".



#### Practice, Practice, Practice!

- Practice small periods of separation prior to school starting e.g. hanging out the washing while your child stays inside or leaving them with a friend while you go to the shops.
- Practice your goodbye ritual so your child knows what to expect.



#### At the gate:

- Remain calm, confident and be consistent.
- Give your child your full attention.
- Say a proper goodbye (but keep it brief) and tell them when you'll be back e.g. "I'll be back later today after school". Do not sneak away when your child is distracted and don't linger.
- Perform your goodbye ritual once only.
- Reassure them that their teacher and school staff will be there to help.

