

Back to School 2022

Information current as at 23 January 2022

Developed in partnership with NSW Health



What you need to know about our return to school in 2022

Department of Education's COVID-smart measures have been developed with NSW Health to minimise transmission and help keep schools open in 2022.

We're taking every precaution to safeguard our learners and school communities, building on our experiences of the last 2 years.

Back to School is an exciting time, particularly for students starting school for the first time. A layered approach which prioritises safety will help keep schools open, where we know the best learning happens.

Our guidance is evidence-based and will provide additional levels of protection in a way that works for schools.



What you need to know about our return to school in 2022

This is not a normal start to the year – however, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow.

Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage any potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than normal.

At Regentville Public School, classes will be buddied up with another class. The teachers of the 2 classes will provide support if one of them is absent.

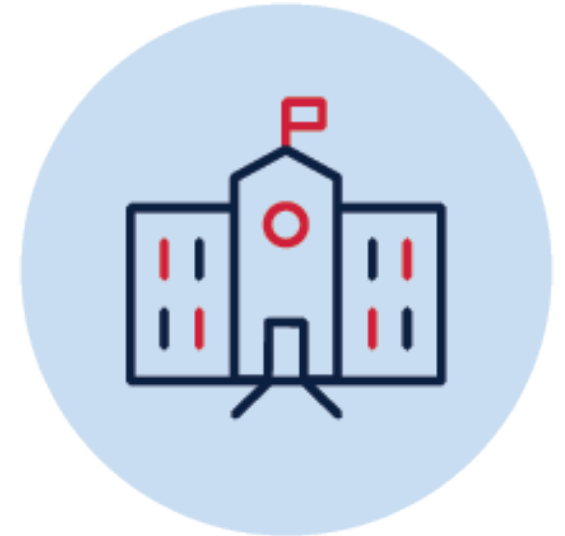


**COVID-safe settings
for Term 1 2022**

The infographic is set against a light blue background. In the top right corner is the NSW Government logo, which consists of a red stylized flower above the text 'NSW GOVERNMENT'. In the center is a white circle containing three blue line-art icons: a vaccine bottle labeled 'COVID-19 VACCINE', a person's ID card, and a surgical mask. Below the circle, the text 'COVID-safe settings for Term 1 2022' is written in a bold, dark blue font.

Before Term 1 begins

- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) will be provided to all staff and students through our school.
- Surveillance testing will provide an important additional layer of protection for our students and staff. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.
- Conduct your child's RATs at home on the morning of school, twice a week on school days and before term starts.
- Participating students and staff are strongly encouraged to confirm a negative rapid antigen test before attending school at the start of Term 1.
- If your child is a household close contact, you must follow [NSW Health advice](#) to stay home and isolate.



Testing

- During the first 4 weeks of term, students and staff are encouraged to do a rapid antigen test (RAT) twice a week on school days in the morning before attending school.
- For the first week of school, please test on Tuesday and Thursday morning. After this, please test on Monday and Wednesday mornings.
- Our school is handing out the first supply of RAT kits on Saturday 29th January from 9-11am and Monday 31st January from 9am-12pm.
- Kits may be collected from the basketball court during these times. Please wear a mask and socially distance when onsite.
- The RAT kits will include instructions for use, how to check the results and how to dispose safely.
- Parents and carers can download an instruction sheet for the rapid antigen test through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\) website](#).
- NSW Health also has [videos](#) on how to use RATs, including [translated materials](#).



Testing

- If your child has even mild COVID-19 symptoms, get them tested with a RAT or PCR (nose and throat swab) test.
- They must isolate until they receive a negative test result, in line with health protocols.
- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test. If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative or another diagnosis is confirmed such as hay fever, they can return to school.
- Parents and carers must register positive RAT results from students on the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#) and notify the school as soon as possible.
- Report positive PCR test results from students to the school as soon as possible.



What to do when COVID-19 positive?

- Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing.
- Positive RAT results must be registered on the service.nsw.gov.au website or Service NSW app. Only positive RAT results will need to be reported via the Service NSW website and app.
- Students who receive a COVID-19 positive RAT or PCR test must tell their school as soon as possible and isolate for 7 days.
- Our school will inform the school community when there is a positive case at school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.
- Follow the latest Health advice for guidance on how to manage and treat COVID-19, including when to leave isolation and return to school.



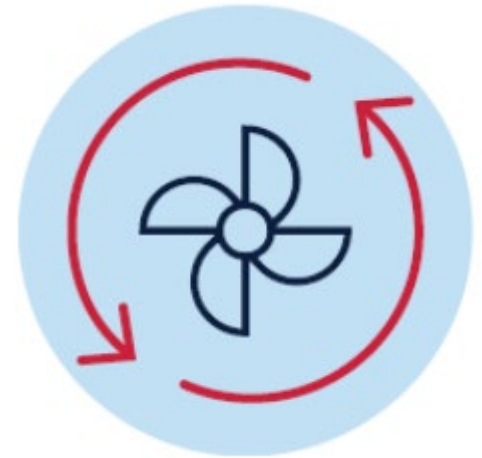
Vaccinations

- All staff on school sites must be fully vaccinated.
- NSW Health strongly recommends all eligible students (and their families) who are 5 years and older get vaccinated.
- The health advice is that COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading it to others.
- For more information about vaccinations for children, go to:
https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/vaccination/get-vaccinated/vaccination-for-5-11-years-old?fbclid=IwAR05tAJU7BlbeR_y4ZWz_6WZaGUqdjB10DyQT6TK4evvvWTH-NjCka9kT4A



Ventilation

- Natural ventilation is the most effective measure, so we will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows. This approach is strongly supported by expert advice.
- We'll continue to encourage using outdoor spaces.



Masks



- All staff and visitors must wear surgical masks indoors on school site.
- All students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors. Surgical masks are strongly encouraged.
- We have supplies of surgical masks available for children who do not bring a mask to school. A teacher may offer your child a mask.
- Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing outdoors
- Surgical masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where children and staff cannot physically distance.
- For more information, refer to [Masks and face coverings](#).

Masks

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

The following graphic from NSW Health shows 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. The department has taken the decision that they are required as an important layer of protection for our staff – particularly around younger students who are yet to be vaccinated.

There are some exemptions around mask wearing – such as when eating and exercising. Please review the NSW Government website for the full list of exemptions.

nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/changes/face-mask-rules



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
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4 Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask

Visitors and activities



- Until further notice, no visitors will be allowed on school grounds except two parents or carers to support Kindergarten students on their first day of school or students starting at a new school.
- No visitors are allowed on school sites until further notice except for fully vaccinated:
 - workers or volunteers operating uniform shops and canteens
 - visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery
 - allied health partners for student wellbeing purposes.

Minimising the spread



- We will aim to minimise opportunities for COVID-19 to spread by reducing interaction between students.
- Students and staff experiencing even the mildest COVID-like symptoms must stay at home (even if they have a negative rapid antigen test).
- Students will be kept in small groups on school grounds, with staggered break times and playground and canteen access.
- Our pick-up practices for the end of the day will still be in place until further notice

Minimising the spread (continued)



- Our school will tighten the cohort model used last year. Classes will buddy up with another class as a cohort.
- We will continue to use best practice hygiene processes on school site.
- Our enhanced cleaning practices will focus on 'high-touch' areas that students and staff move through regularly.
- We will continue to highlight physical distancing, maintaining 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.
- All staff and essential visitors will continue to use the school's QR code check-in.

Digital learning packages

- If face-to-face learning is not possible, our school will be supported to start home learning through digital learning packages for short periods.
- Online learning and lessons have been developed by the department and will be shared online.
- Schools will have ongoing support for learning from home activities if required, and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning
- Please monitor SkoolBag for information if we are required to shift to learning from home.



Further information and questions

Where possible, we expect all of our students to be back at school for Day 1, Term 1.

Advice for families

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

education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

Guidelines if your child is exposed to COVID-19

Visit the NSW Health website for the latest guidance if your child/guardian is a household close contact.

health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/people-exposed-to-covid

Managing COVID-19 at home

Advice for managing COVID-19 at home, including when to leave isolation.

health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-confirmed

Thank you

If you require more information, please email the school or contact your child's class teacher via email or Class Dojo.

Further updates will be sent out as SkoolBag notifications and uploaded to our website.

Mrs Thompson

Principal