

# Return to school Level 3 plus

Information current as at 7 October 2021

Developed in partnership with NSW Health



# Acknowledgement of Country



I acknowledge that I am meeting with you today from the lands of the Wadi Wadi and Wandean people. I also acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we all work today and pay respect to Elders past and present & emerging and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people joining us today.

# What we'll cover in this session

Term 4 return  
to school



Year 12 only

**18**  
October

Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

**25**  
October

- Key dates
- COVID-safe practices at our school
- Vaccinations
- HSC - Where to find out more
- Questions and answers – please post in the chat

# 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

<b>Year 12 only</b>	<b>Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11</b>	
<b>18</b> October	<b>25</b> 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 – Year 12
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups (7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)
- Virtual assembly for students – Wednesday 20 October, 9.45am

Year 12 only

**18**  
October

Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

**25**  
October

# 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 will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October.

Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated.



# Keeping student groups together

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts where 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 by keeping cohorts together where possible.

When students arrive in the morning, they will need to move to their outside year area:

Year 11 - CAPA Quad

Year 10 - Amphitheatre

Year 9 - Quad and grass area alongside of A block

Year 8 - Basketball court area and oval

Year 7 - In front of administration office



# Keeping student groups together – Bus lines

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts where 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 by keeping cohorts together where possible.

When students arrive in the morning, they will need to move to their outside year area:

Year 11 – Bus COLA

Year 10 – Grass area at front of the school (near school sign)

Year 9 - Quad

Year 8 - Basketball court area

Year 7 - In front of administration office





# 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.

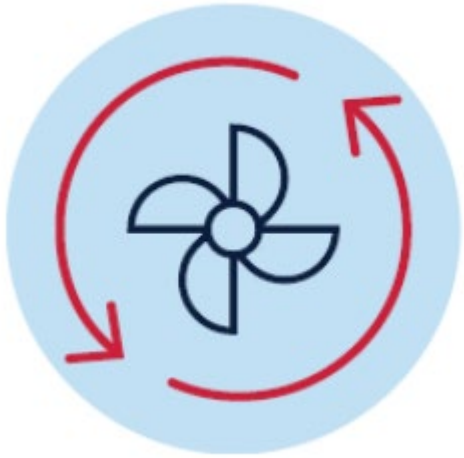
Students should bring their own masks where possible, but schools will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are also required for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.

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

Students are expected to bring their own masks. Students who have an exemption from their Doctor need to carry this with them at all times and show it to teachers when requested

If students refuse to wear a mask, parents will be contacted to take them home

# 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.

This topic will be discussed at WHS meeting on Thursday.

# Canteen

We recommend that students are prepared for the school day and bring recess and lunch. Our canteen will be open but is operating in a limited capacity in order to ensure the safety of all students.

## WEEK 4 (From 25th October)

Students will be required to place orders for recess or lunch BEFORE SCHOOL – this can be done at the canteen or through our new online ordering system – details to be provided soon. Students will pick up their order from their playground area.

## WEEK 5 (From 1st November)

Students will be required to place orders for recess or lunch BEFORE SCHOOL – this can be done at the canteen or through our new online ordering system – details to be provided soon. Students will pick up their order from their playground area.

Students will be able to access the canteen on a designated day only. (based on their Year Group)

# School activities

During Term 4 many school-based activities will need to be changed to cohort based events.

This includes celebrations like assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events.



# What you need to know about HSC exams

We are putting in place and preparing COVID-safe arrangements for exams to minimise mixing between students. These plans include appropriate spacing for students and that exams are conducted in well-ventilated rooms and spaces, mask wearing for students and staff onsite. We are also organising alternative venues in the event we need to relocate the exams at Vincentia Public School.

Students will sign in with a QR code to monitor attendance for contact tracing before entering the examination room. Desks will be physically distanced and cleaning enhanced



# 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. This will be notified via email, facebook and our staff communication tree. 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

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>

# Trough

There is a trough in waves,  
a low spot  
where horizon disappears  
and only sky  
and water  
are our company.

And there we lose our way  
unless  
we rest, knowing the wave will bring us  
to its crest again.

There we may drown  
if we let fear  
hold us within its grip and shake us  
side to side,  
and leave us flailing, torn, disoriented.

But if we rest there  
in the trough,  
in silence,  
being with  
the low part of the wave,  
keeping  
our energy and  
noticing the shape of things,  
the flow,  
then time alone  
will bring us to another  
place  
where we can see  
horizon, see the land again,  
regain our sense  
of where  
we are,  
and where we need to swim.

*- Judy Brown*

Thank you

Questions?