



NSW CECG COVID-19 Management Plan

Term 2 2022

This plan is subject to health advice at the time. The health and safety of students, staff and their families are our priority. In Term 2 2022, your child's school will operate with a number of COVID-smart measures that have been developed with NSW Health to minimise transmission and keep schools open.

CECG will deliver on-campus learning with the following COVID smart measures in place to minimise transmission of COVID-19 onsite. All schools should regularly review, and update where required, their approach to managing COVID-19 as appropriate. Our approach is informed by the National Framework for Managing COVID-19 in Schools and Early Childhood Education and Care Settings, and the latest advice on winter season preparedness from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

The intent of the CECG COVID Response is to eliminate or minimise the risk of harm from COVID-19 as far as reasonably practicable, and to maximise learning and development, including through face-to-face learning where possible. These key measures include rapid antigen testing (RAT) of students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms or are identified as close contacts, vaccinations, maximising ventilation, encouraging regular hand washing and continuing enhanced cleaning of schools, assessing risk and applying appropriate safeguards across activities and events, learning from home where face-to-face learning is not possible.

In certain circumstances NSW Health and the Department of Education may advise that certain COVID-smart measures be temporarily reintroduced at your school. Your principal will work with Health and the department and provide further details of any changes to COVID-smart measures at your school when required. These temporary measures may include ceasing large indoor gatherings, ceasing off-site and inter school activities, mask wearing for adults and high school students, limiting visitors to schools, separating cohorts of students, symptomatic use of RATS and learning from home remotely.

National Guiding Principles of Management COVID-19 in Schools and ELC	Principle 1: schools are essential and should be the first to open and last to close wherever possible in outbreak situations, with face-to-face learning prioritised	Principle 2: Baseline public health measures continue to apply (such as hand washing, face masks, physical distancing, ventilation, staying home if unwell, and encouraging vaccination)	Principle 3: No vulnerable child or child of an essential worker is turned away (including localised school planning to ensure a minimum offering is available for these children)	Principle 4: Responses to be proportionate and health risk-based (informed by health advice, practical implementation requirements, and the individual profile of different education settings)	Principle 5: Schools to respond on the basis of public health advice and with support from public health authorities where required (including data collection and sharing between education and public health authorities)	Principle 6: Wellbeing of children and education staff to be supported (including addressing workforce shortages wherever possible and consistent and timely communication)
Close Contacts attending school	<p>Close contacts attending school will need to adhere to the following in addition to the NSW Health guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They must notify the school if they are intending to return under this provision. • They should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result each morning before attending school for five school days. • They must wear a mask indoors (if in a secondary school setting) except when eating or exercising. Primary school students are recommended to wear a mask indoors (except when eating or exercising). • No student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps. • No apprentices, trainees or students on placement or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to attend settings identified as high risk by NSW Health (healthcare, aged care, disability care or correctional facilities). <p>Any visitor to a school site who is a close contact is required to advise the school that they are a close contact before they come on site. These visitors should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result before attending. They must also wear a mask indoors at all times. Schools should consider if the visit can be conducted virtually.</p>					

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Baseline public health measures for all schools</p>	<p>The following measures will be in place in all NSW CECG Schools. These measures will be reviewed from time to time based on advice from NSW Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination - All eligible students (ages 5 and over) and all staff are strongly encouraged to be up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination. Staff, volunteers and regular visitors who are subject to the the NSW Public Health (COVID-19 Vaccination of Education and Care Workers) Order 2021 must adhere to requirements until the Direction is revoked by NSW Health (<i>Principle 2</i>). • Physical distancing - Physical distancing should be maintained on school sites where possible (<i>Principle 2</i>). Density quotients no longer apply. • Staying home when sick and hygiene requirements - Staff, students and visitors must not attend school if they are unwell and will be sent home if they any have symptoms of COVID-19. All staff, visitors and students should at all times maintain appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene (<i>Principle 2</i>). • Minimising mixing - Cohorting is no longer required however where learning cohorts are mixed, schools should consider additional mitigations such as minimising the length of time or the number of students or staff participating in organised activities together. The usual COVID smart behaviours should be encouraged, including physical distancing where possible, practicing good hand and respiratory hygiene practices, and staying home if unwell. • Masks - The use of face masks has eased. Staff, Students and visitors are not required to wear masks on school sites though are encouraged to do so where it suits them unless they meet the following circumstances. Where a person is a household contact who is attending school and has not had COVID in the past 12 weeks they are required to wear a mask for the 7 day period of quarantine for the positive case in their household. In line with the latest advice from NSW Health, masks are recommended for students and staff who have recovered from COVID-19, completed their 7-day isolation period and are no longer showing symptoms for an additional 3 days (from days 8 – 10 after receiving a positive COVID-19 result). Children K to 2 should not wear masks as they are likely to be worn incorrectly and may present a choking hazard (<i>Principle 2</i>). • Cleaning - COVID-Safe cleaning practices will be in place in line with the AHPPC endorsed Information about cleaning and disinfection for schools. This includes routine and regular daily cleaning with escalation to enhanced cleaning where cases have been identified. Enhanced cleaning can be done before or after school/pre-school and provides school/ELC communities with an additional layer of assurance. • Ventilation - Ventilation systems continue to be adjusted to increase the fresh air being supplied to classrooms that are connected to HVAC systems. Classrooms that are not connected to HVAC systems typically have external ventilation and split system AC units so the fresh air source can be readily controlled. Mechanical ventilation and outdoor areas for learning will continue to be used where appropriate, balanced against weather and temperature considerations (<i>Principle 2</i>). • Rapid Antigen Tests - Schools will have access to Rapid Antigen Tests for distribution as needed. Staff and students who are symptomatic should not attend the school to collect a Rapid Antigen Test. Those staff and students are encouraged to access testing through a NSW Health testing facility (<i>Principles 4 and 5</i>). The NSW Government is supplying a further 5 RAT tests per person early in Term Two and these will be distributed by schools when received.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Students – Schools will continue to support learning from home for students who are medically vulnerable to COVID-19, which is supported by a medical certificate. All students continue to have access to school counsellors remotely or in person. Vulnerable children and children of essential workers will continue to have access to onsite supervision during periods of remote learning (<i>Principles 3 and 6</i>). • Supporting Staff – School staff are essential workers. All staff have access to wellbeing supports. Teachers/Staff will not be required to deliver remote and on campus learning to the same class at the same time. Staff can attend professional learning and development opportunities on site or off site (<i>Principle 6</i>).
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Responding to COVID-19 exposures onsite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification - Schools/ELCs will continue to receive notifications of positive cases from staff and students. Staff and students who are either diagnosed with COVID-19 or have had an exposure to COVID-19 should comply with the public health advice relating to notification, isolation and quarantine requirements (<i>Principle 5</i>). • Communication - Schools will communicate to their school communities when a significant number of cases are recorded. Staff and students who are affected should comply with the appropriate public health advice, dependent on their exposure level. Staff and students who are not directly affected can continue attending school unless they have symptoms of COVID-19 (<i>Principle 4</i>). • Additional COVID-19 Safety Measures - CECG will continue to routinely liaise with principals regarding situations where there are high numbers of COVID positive cases in schools. Additional risk mitigation strategies may be implemented, based on Health advice (see below) (<i>Principles 4 and 5</i>).

Additional COVID-19 safety measures	<p>When there are high numbers of COVID-19 exposures at a CECG School, consideration will be given to whether any of the following additional COVID-19 Safety Measures should be reintroduced, with authorisation by the CECG COVID Response Team. These measures aim to limit the potential for further transmission and will generally be limited to a short period of time (e.g. 1 to 2 weeks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceasing large indoor gatherings • Ceasing off site and inter-school activities • Masks - Staff, students in Years 7-12, and visitors may be asked to wear a mask when indoors and when physical distancing of 1.5 meters cannot be maintained. • Limiting parents and carers on site - Parents and carers may be asked not to attend a school/ELC site without an appointment. • Separating cohorts of students - It may be necessary to cohort a particular class or year level so that they do not mix with other students or staff across the school. • Symptomatic use of RATS – that is, test before returning to school and again in 48 hours. • Remote learning - Some or all students may need to return to remote learning. This measure will be limited as much as possible, however may also be enacted in response to workforce shortages arising from COVID-19.
Facilities & hire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School canteens and uniform stores can operate online and counter sales can occur with COVID safety business checklists in place. • P&F/Council/School Community run fundraisers can go ahead on school sites with appropriate risk mitigation measures and COVID Safety Plans in place. There should only be a minimum number of volunteers (visitors to the school) necessary to coordinate fundraisers on site during school hours. • Hiring a school facility - For a hirer to access a school facility they must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan; including adhering to physical distancing and hygiene requirements. Private events held at a school facility must also comply with any applicable public health restrictions for events.
Visitors	<p>Parents and carers on school sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers can attend outdoor areas of the school site for drop off and pick up, or when attending a permitted activity (see below). • Parents and carers can enter school classrooms or indoor settings with an appointment, including to access enrolment support, or when attending a permitted activity (see below). Parents and carers can book an appointment with their school. • Parents and carers must follow COVID smart measures (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell). <p>CECG staff on school/ELC sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CECG staff who provide a support service are permitted to enter the school site. This also includes allied health staff and other school support services. • CECG staff visits can resume by appointment where agreed to by the School Principal. • All staff must follow COVID safe measures (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell) <p>Essential visitors, volunteers, and VIPs on school sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential visitors are permitted to attend school sites. Essential visitors are considered to be anyone who provides a critical service to a student or staff member, including allied health. Student placements are also allowed. • Volunteers are permitted to attend school sites. Volunteers are considered to be anyone who provides a critical service to the school community, including canteen and uniform stores, parent volunteers, and P&F/Council run fundraisers. • VIPs are permitted to attend school sites by appointment following the usual approval processes. • Essential visitors, volunteers and VIPs must follow COVID safe measures (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell)

The following are permitted activities:

- Extracurricular activities, incursions on school sites, and local excursions
- Interstate and overnight excursions involving individual classes, year groups or school sports groups. COVID Safety Plans must be in place and a risk assessment completed.
- For interstate travel the plan should outline how they will manage a child or staff member who develops symptoms of COVID-19, or has a positive COVID-19 test, while interstate. Parents must be available to pick up children who become unwell while away.
- Work experience placements and VET training on and off school sites.
- Information nights and transition visits.
- Mixed cohort dance groups, school choir, bands, or orchestras.
- School assemblies, performances, concerts and graduations.
- School sporting team training and participation in community and interschool sporting competitions.
- Swimming and athletics carnivals.
- Parents and carers can attend activities and must follow COVID smart measures at all times on school sites (physical distancing, hygiene practices, staying away if unwell). Events on school sites that involve the general public must have a COVID Safety Plan in Place.
- International excursions are **not permitted** at this time.

- Academic assessments will be undertaken as per normal processes as much as is practicable.