

COVID-safe school operations

	Overview	Guidance on mask wearing
Level 1 School operating in a COVID-safe way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff to not attend school if they have symptoms; negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school Parents, carers and visitors are allowed on site QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors COVID-19 Safety Plans required in line with NSW Health advice (such as large gatherings or events) Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in line with broader Health settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines Community use in line with broader Health settings SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) operational Community Language Schools operational P&C on site Additional cleaning measures in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and students are supported to wear a mask or face covering should they choose to do so.
Level 2 COVID-safe; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 1, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-essential visitors not allowed on site (including parents and carers) Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in outdoor settings only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies must have COVID-safe practices in place and no parents or carers are allowed Excursions within local government area (LGA) only, and strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While in indoor settings in schools, masks or face coverings are recommended for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above.
Level 3 COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed on site; further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 2, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask wearing requirements Introduction of staggered breaks and reduced mingling of student cohorts wherever possible Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted School canteens can operate with conditions Exams as per Health approved COVID-safe HSC guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff interactions limited with physical distancing No assemblies No excursions No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services) Uniform shops are online. No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) No Community Language School on site <p>While on school sites masks or face coverings are required (unless eating or exercising) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff indoors and outdoors indoors for students in Year 7 and above. <p>Masks are recommended for primary students for both indoors and outdoors, and also for students in Year 7 and above when outdoors.</p>
Level 3 plus COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed for certain cohorts if vaccination rates achieved; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 3, with following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to school will be based on community settings such as adults fully vaccinated and levels of community transmission Only vaccinated staff on site Students in cohorts (including split classes) starting with staggered return of priority cohorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimised interactions and contact within student cohorts Staggered access to school facilities and shared spaces such as libraries and canteens Drop-offs, pick-ups and break times staggered by cohort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While on school sites, both indoors and outdoors, masks or face coverings are mandatory for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above unless they are eating or exercising. Masks are strongly recommended for all students.
Level 4 Learning from home encouraged; schools are open for families who need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are encouraged to keep their children at home, with no student to be turned away Schools activate plans to support continuity of education for all students learning from home Study bubbles for students sitting their HSC exams Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services) No canteens 	<p>Schools in identified local government areas of concern are operating under Level 4 settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for authorised workers in an LGA of concern remain in place. Staff must not leave their LGA for work unless they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> had at least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or provide evidence of a medical exemption have registered their travel with Service NSW. Staff who live outside but work in an LGA of concern will need to register their travel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While on school sites, both indoors and outdoors, masks or face coverings are mandatory for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above unless they are eating or exercising. Masks are strongly recommended for all students.