

Back to school 2022

Communications pack for state schools

The [back to school plan for 2022](#) has been released.

Queensland school communities are using a range of COVID-19 prevention and health measures to limit the risk of transmission.

The back to school plan outlines the current and additional measures to ensure our school communities continue to be COVID-19 safe.

This plan covers Kindergarten on school sites, Prep to Year 12 and Early Childhood Development Programs.

The following pack has been developed to support you to communicate what the plan means for staff, families and students within your school communities.

This pack includes the following:

- key features of plan
- frequently asked questions
- template letters for families
- suggested social media posts.

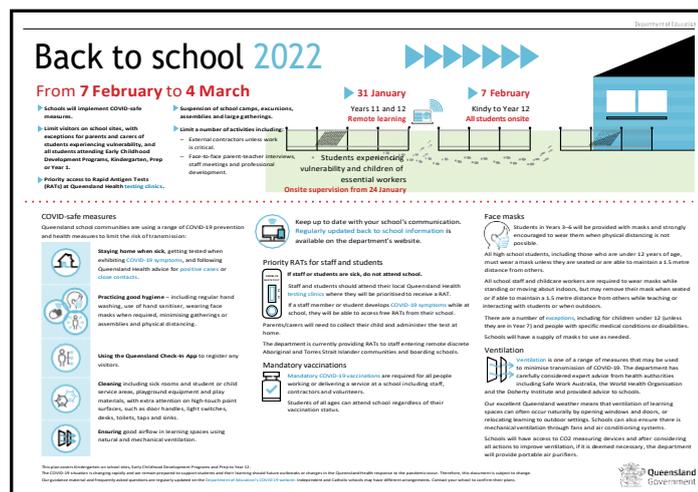
As students return to school, it is important we continue to keep families updated on our school operations, to ensure schools remain COVID-19 safe environments.

Stay up-to-date with all special messages from the Director-General and ERT Chair on [OnePortal](#).



Key features of the plan from 7 February to 4 March include:

- Priority access to rapid antigen tests (RATs) at Queensland Health [testing clinics](#) for students and staff who have symptoms.
- RATs available in schools for students and staff who develop symptoms while on site.
- Mandatory mask wearing for staff in all schools, and all high school students.
- Masks supplied and strongly encouraged for students in Years 3 to 6.
- Suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies, and large gatherings.
- Limiting visitors on school sites, with exceptions for parents and carers of students who are experiencing vulnerability, and all students attending Early Childhood Development Program, Kindergarten, Prep or Year 1 students.
- Limiting face-to-face parent-teacher interviews, staff meetings and professional development.



For more information and to download the plan visit: <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19>

Priority rapid antigen testing for staff and students

If you are sick /symptomatic

- To keep our school communities COVID-19 safe, students and staff must not attend school if they are sick or showing [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Staff and students should attend their local Queensland Health [testing clinics](#) where they will be prioritised to receive rapid antigen tests (RATs).
- If the test result is negative and the staff member or student is well, they can return to school. If the test is positive, the staff member or student will need to follow Queensland Health [quarantine and isolation requirements](#).

If you become symptomatic at school

- Students will be immediately isolated in a safe place, and their parents/carer will be contacted to collect their child.
- When the student is collected the parent/carer will receive a RAT to administer at home.
- Staff members will immediately leave the school and be provided with a RAT to administer at home.
- If the test result is negative and the student or staff member is well, they can return to school. If the test is positive, they will need to follow Queensland Health [quarantine and isolation requirements](#).

Face masks

Please regularly check the [Queensland Government website](#) to stay up-to-date with the current COVID-19 restrictions for wearing face masks as this advice can change frequently.

All high school students including those who are under 12 years of age, all school staff (primary and high school), along with volunteers, family members, contractors and other visitors are required to wear masks at while at school.

Students in Years 3–6 will be provided with masks and strongly encouraged to wear them when physical distancing is not possible.

Face masks may be removed in some circumstances (e.g. if physical distancing can be maintained). See our [Face masks page](#) for more information.

There are a number of [exceptions](#) to wearing face masks, including people with particular medical conditions or disabilities.

Suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies, and large gatherings

From 7 February – 4 March 2022, school camps, excursions, assemblies and large gatherings are suspended.

Limiting visitors on site, with exceptions for parents and carers of student attending Early Childhood Development Programs, Kindergarten, Prep or Year 1.

Schools will need to limit a number of activities, including parents/carer and visitors on school sites.

Frequently asked questions

What happens if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school?

If a student develops symptoms while at school they will be made comfortable and isolated in a safe place until collected by their parent/carer.

When the student is collected, the parent/carer will receive a RAT to administer at home.

If the test result is negative and they are well, student can return to school. If the test is positive, they will need to follow Queensland Health [quarantine and isolation requirements](#).

Do I come to school to collect a RAT if my child is sick at home?

No. All students and school staff and who are sick or showing [COVID-19 symptoms](#) should visit their [local testing clinic](#). They will be prioritised to collect a RAT and take it home to administer.

If the test result is negative and they are well, the staff member or student can return to school. If the test is positive, they will need to follow Queensland Health [quarantine and isolation requirements](#).

Do students in Years 3–6 have to bring a face mask to school?

Students in Years 3–6 will be provided with masks by their school and strongly encouraged to wear them when physical distancing is not possible.

Will sporting events be continuing?

Yes. Sporting events will continue on and off school site

Can my school hold face-to-face assemblies or large gatherings, including school camps?

No, these activities are currently suspended. However, your school will provide information about what this means for you and any changes to the school calendar. Some schools may deliver events on line.

Are there any special arrangements for students starting Kindergarten or Prep?

Yes. While there are limitations to parents/carers on school sites, we know that starting Kindergarten or Prep is an important milestone in a child's learning journey, and we want all children and families to have a positive transition. Schools are ready to safely welcome you and your child.

Your school will communicate with you about how they will manage the flow of children and families on the school site for the first four weeks.

Can I enter the school with my child who attends an Early Childhood Development Program, Kindy, Prep or Year 1 or is experiencing vulnerability?

Yes. You will be able to enter the school grounds to support your child's start to school. Your school will communicate with you about how they will manage the flow of children and families on the school site for the first four weeks.

Can parents/carers of Years 2 and above come onto school grounds?

Schools will be limiting the number of visitors on school sites from 7 February -4 March 2022. If your child is experiencing vulnerability you may enter to support your child's start to school. Your school will communicate with you the arrangements for these 4 weeks.

If my child is home unwell are they expected to do school work?

No. If children are unwell, they should rest and recover.

Student and families can access teaching and learning on the learning@home site.

There are resources available to help families and students care for their mental health and well-being at this time.

Families should contact their school to discuss possible learning at home arrangements.

Are teachers expected to provide remote learning to unwell children?

No. If children are unwell, they should rest and recover.

Student and families can access teaching and learning on the learning@home site.

There are resources available to help families and students care for their mental health and well-being at this time.

Families should contact their school to discuss possible learning at home arrangements.

Will I be informed if there is a positive of COVID-19

Members of the school community, including staff and families, will be informed about positive cases.

Can outside organisations still hire/use school facilities?

From 7 February to 4 March, external organisations and/or contractors will need to contact their school for further information regarding limitations to access school facilities.

If my child is quarantining at home are they expected to do school work?

No although students and families are encouraged to access teaching and learning on the learning@home site.

Families should contact their school to discuss possible learning at home arrangements which suit the school and family context.

Template letters for Principals

Update for school community

Letters for school communities have been prepared below for release on school letterhead. Please edit sections **highlighted in yellow** to suit your school's arrangements.

Dear parents and caregivers

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

As announced by the Premier on Sunday 30 January 2022, the Queensland Government has released the COVID-safe back to school plan.

From Monday 7 February, key features of the plan include:

- Suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies, and large gatherings (please note that school sport will continue as usual)
- Limiting of visitors on site, with exceptions for parents and carers of Prep or Year 1 students
- Staggered drop off times and special drop off zones
- **Masks supplied and strongly encouraged for students in Years 3 to 6**
- **Mask wearing for all high school students and all staff**
- Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) available in school for students and staff who develop symptoms while on site
- Priority access to RATs for students and staff at [Queensland Health testing clinics](#)
- A range of ventilation measures including air purifiers as required

You can access the [Return to School plan here](#), and further information and FAQs on the [Department of Education COVID-19 website](#).

Essential to the success of these measures, is that **if your child is unwell or displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, they must not attend school**. I cannot emphasise this message strongly enough – it is critical to keeping our school community safe.

Rapid antigen tests (RATs)

Our school has a supply of RATs, which will be provided to any staff or students who, while attending school, develop COVID-19 symptoms. Please note if your child has COVID-19 symptoms while at home they must not attend school.

Your child, if they have COVID-1 symptoms, can visit your local [Queensland health testing clinic](#) and will be given priority access to a free RAT.

Limiting access for visitors

At our school, limitations on parent and visitor access are now in place.

If you are a parent of a Kindy/Prep or Year 1 student, you may enter the school with your child. The following protocols will be in place: *Enter your school arrangements here eg:*

- 1. Drop off/pick up points**
- 2. Staggered drop off times**
- 3. Entry and Exit directions**
- 4. Number limits per classroom etc**

For other parents and visitors, please limit your access to the school as much as possible. *[Enter your school arrangements here]*

Excursions and camps

Any excursions and camps scheduled between now and 4 March are cancelled.

[Enter your school arrangements here]

This week

For the upcoming week, our school remains open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children, in the same way we were last week. If you need to send your child to school you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

School staff will supervise any students who attend school.

From Monday 31 January, Year 11 and 12 students are commencing remote learning for one week, until the revised formal start of the school year on 7 February.

[Enter your school arrangements here]

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Queensland Government website](#).

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work together during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely

Principal

Positive case in school

Letter for school communities, Principals to release on school letterhead

Dear parents and caregivers

Today a positive COVID-19 **case/s** was detected in our **school**.

May I remind you to continue to:

- monitor yourself and your family for **COVID-19 symptoms** that can include fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, headache, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting or nausea, loss of smell and/or taste.
- stay home if displaying any symptoms, or feeling unwell. You should attend your local Queensland Health testing clinics where students are prioritised to get a free rapid antigen test (RAT).
- Continue to follow all **Queensland Health advice**.

If students become symptomatic while at school, you will be contacted to collect them. You will also be provided with a free rapid antigen test (RAT) to administer at home.

If your child tests positive to COVID-19, please follow **Queensland Health guidelines** for reporting the test result, isolation and quarantine.

More COVID-19 related information is available from www.health.qld.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Principal

OVERVIEW POST – PRIMARY SCHOOL



BACK TO SCHOOL – We welcome back all students onsite from 7 February however if your child is sick or feeling unwell, please keep them at home. Students can receive priority access to rapid antigen test (RATs) at Queensland Health testing clinics if they are showing symptoms. Visit a [testing clinic](#) near you.

In addition to the COVID safe measures currently in our school, the following will also be in place from 7 February to 4 March 2022:

- all students in Years 3 to 6 will be provided with masks and strongly encouraged to wear them when physical distancing is not possible
- limiting visitors on site, with exceptions for parents and carers of students experiencing vulnerability and of students attending Early Childhood Development Programs, Kindy, Prep or Year 1.
 - if your child is experiencing vulnerability you may enter to support your child’s start to school. Schools will contact parents about what this means for them and their child
- school camps, excursions, assemblies and large gatherings have been suspended and limits have been placed on external contractors, face-to-face staff meetings and professional development, and parent–teacher interviews
- priority access to rapid antigen tests (RATs) for staff and students at Queensland Health testing clinics who have symptoms
- RATs available in schools for students and staff who develop symptoms while on site.

We will email parents and carers with further information about our school’s approach.

To find out more about the Back to school plan, visit <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19>

OVERVIEW POST – HIGH SCHOOL



BACK TO SCHOOL – Welcome back to school! Years 11 and 12 have started their remote learning this week and will join remaining year levels onsite from 7 February.

In addition to the COVID safe measures currently in our school, the following will also be in place from 7 February to 4 March 2022:

- if your child is sick or feeling unwell, please keep them at home. Students can receive priority access to RATs at Queensland Health testing clinics. Visit a [testing clinic](#) near you
- parents and carers are also asked not to come on school grounds
- school camps, excursions, assemblies and large gatherings have been suspended and limits have been placed on external contractors, face-to-face staff meetings, parent–teacher interviews, and professional development.

We will email parents and carers with further information about our school’s approach.

To find out more about the Back to school plan, visit <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19>

RAPID ANTIGEN TEST POST

BACK TO SCHOOL – students return to school from 7 February. Schools are **[Our school is]** implementing a number of measures to keep schools COVID-19 safe including:

- if your child is sick or feeling unwell, please keep them at home. Students can receive priority access to RATs at Queensland Health testing clinics. Visit a testing clinic near you
- if your child becomes sick at school, they will be immediately isolated in a safe place, and you will be contacted to collect your child. When you collect your child you will receive a rapid antigen test to administer at home.

To find out more visit <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19> **[School website]**

MASK POST

BACK TO SCHOOL – students return to school from 7 February. Schools are [Our school is] implementing a number of measures to keep schools COVID-19 safe including:

- mandatory mask wearing for all high school students and staff
- masks supplied and strongly encouraged for students in Years 3 to 6.

To find out more visit <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19> [School website]

SUSPENDED ACTIVITIES POST

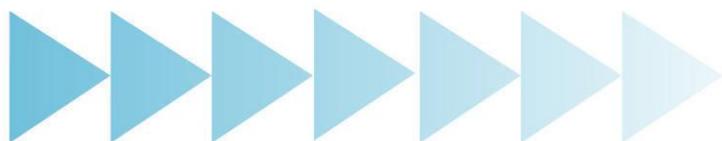
BACK TO SCHOOL – students return to school from 7 February. Schools are [Our school is] implementing a number of measures to keep schools COVID-19 safe including:

- suspending school camps, excursions, assemblies, and large gatherings
- limiting visitors on site, with exceptions for parents and carers of students experiencing vulnerability and of students attending Early Childhood Development Programs, Kindy, Prep or Year 1.
 - if your child is experiencing vulnerability you may enter to support your child’s start to school. Schools will contact parents about what this means for them and their child.

We will be in contact with you about what this means for you and your child.

To find out more visit <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19> [School website]

GENERIC INFOGRAPHIC POST



Back to school 2022

From 7 February to 4 March

- ▶ Schools will implement COVID-safe measures.
- ▶ Limit visitors on school sites, with exceptions for parents and carers of students experiencing vulnerability, and all students attending Early Childhood Development Programs, Kindergarten, Prep or Year 1
- ▶ Priority access to Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) at Queensland Health testing clinics.
- ▶ Suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies and large gatherings.

