

Back to School 2022

Information current as at 21 January 2022

Developed in partnership with NSW Health



Acknowledgement of Country



I acknowledge that I am hosting this parent webinar from the lands of the Darug People. I also acknowledge the Ongoing Custodians of the various lands on which you are all calling in from today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this webinar and throughout our school community.

What we'll cover in this session

COVID-smart measures for our school



COVID-safe settings
for Term 1 2022

Testing

What to do when COVID-19 positive?

Vaccinations

Ventilation

Masks

Visitors and activities

Minimising the spread

School Procedures

Digital learning packages

- Learning from home

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

COVID-smart measures have been developed in consultation with NSW Health and the DoE to minimise transmission and keep schools open in 2022.

We're taking every precaution to safeguard our learners and school communities.

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

These steps are evidence-based and will provide additional levels of protection in a way that works for schools.



The infographic features 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 bottle labeled 'COVID-19 VACCINE', a clipboard with a person icon, and a surgical mask. Below the circle, the text 'COVID-safe settings for Term 1 2022' is written in a bold, dark blue font.

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

This is not a normal start to the year - however having your child at school and being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow.

Building a child's relationship with their teacher and peers, is important.

We will manage any potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than normal.



The graphic features a light blue background with a white circle in the center. Inside the circle are three blue line-art icons: a bottle labeled 'COVID-19 VACCINE', a clipboard with a person icon, and a surgical mask. In the top right corner of the graphic is the NSW Government logo. Below the circle, the text 'COVID-safe settings for Term 1 2022' is written in a bold, dark blue font.

COVID-safe settings
for Term 1 2022

Classroom routine

We will manage any potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19. There are many different scenarios that may arise.

Casuals teachers

Other teachers within the school eg EALD / Learning and Support

Split classes

Teachers from other grades

Either way, we will try our best to ensure continuity for our students.

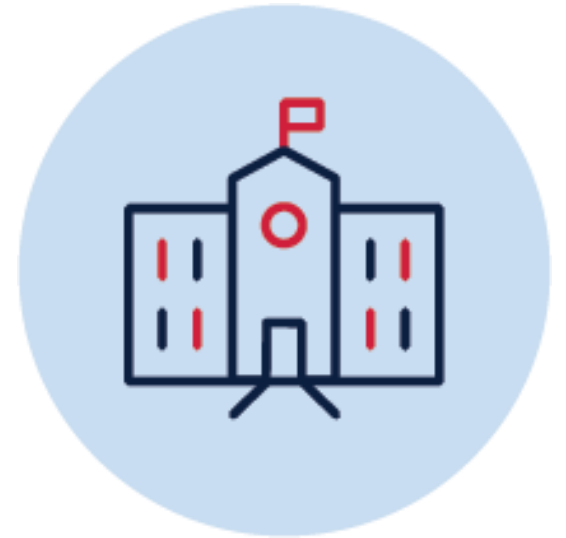
Before Term 1 begins

- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) have been 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.

Week 2 Tuesday and Thursday (first week of school)

Week 3 Monday and Wednesday

- Participating students and staff must return 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 (Mondays and Wednesdays) in the morning before attending school.
- The RAT kits 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](#).
- More tests should be coming in the next 2 weeks to be collected.



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, the student or staff member 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**.
- Your principal 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, including having their booster when eligible.
- It is strongly recommended all eligible students (and their families) who are 5 years and older get vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading it to others.
- Visit the [Find a vaccine clinic](#) website to book an appointment near you.

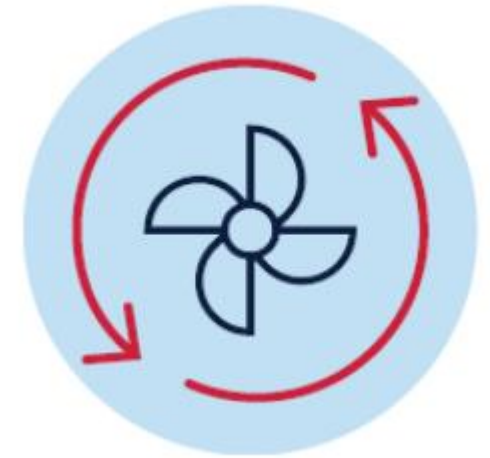


Ventilation

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

The school will have the following ventilation measures in place to improve ventilation in indoor settings:

- Open windows and doors.
- The use of air conditioners and ceiling fans will assist in the circulation of fresh air.
- Regularly inspect, maintain and clean heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.
- Outdoor learning spaces will be optimised by teachers.
- [Advice for families - Ventilation](#)



Masks



- **Surgical masks** are required to be worn on the site by staff indoors. and are strongly encouraged outdoors when it is difficult to socially distance.
(as per the updated announcement on 21/1/22)
- **No vented or cloth masks should be worn.**
- We are also strongly recommend for students to wear masks indoors.
- We strongly recommend that masks are worn on all public transport to and from school.
- A small supply of masks will be available on site for students and approved visitors who may require one.

Mask wearing for students



Surgical masks are strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance.

Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising and playing a musical instrument.

For more information, refer to [Masks and face coverings](#).

Fitting a mask to younger children



How to wear a mask NSW GOVERNMENT

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 1/4

2 Make sure the ear loops are firmly in place 2/4

3 Fold the metal strip in the mask around your nose so it stays in place 3/4

4 Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask 4/4

Please send your child with a mask and a spare in their bag.

Visitors and activities



- Until further notice, **no visitors will be allowed on school grounds** except two parents or carers to support Kindergarten students 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.

Attendance

All students should return to school on Tuesday 1 February.

Close contact in the household - **Flexible attendance** and will be supported through the department Learning From Home hub - Digital Learning packages

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home/learning-packages>

Evidence of work completion will need to be provided to the teacher.

If a child is **sick** - please follow normal procedures and record the absence on Schoolzine.

Minimising the spread - Student Wellbeing



- If your child has any flu like symptoms, they are to remain at home and get a covid-19 test.
- Mild COVID-like symptoms mean students and staff must stay home, even with a negative RAT result.
- Students are expected to stay away from school or be collected by a parent/carer should they become unwell during the day. Please make sure you have a plan B regarding emergency pick up.
- The sick bay will be placed outside the office to segregate the students.

What this will look like at LEPS

- **Playground** - All grades spend break times in segregated areas including multi-age classes that will play with their year cohort.
- **Toilets** - Toilets breaks have been scheduled in year cohorts throughout the day.
- **Canteen** - The canteen will be open from Monday 7 February for online orders only (Recess and Lunch). There will be no over the counter sales.
- **RFF** (Library, Science and Technology) will be scheduled in cohort blocks.

What this will look like at LEPS

- **On-Site Visitors-** Parents are not permitted on school grounds and are encouraged to stay in cars for drop off and pick up.
- We recommend parents & carers wear masks for drop off and pick up.
- **Arrival/ Departure** - Students will depart the school in their year groups from allocated gates.

K-3 leave at 3:10pm

- Kindy - Main gate (2:30 4-11 Feb)
- Year 1 - Tennis Court gate
- Year 2- Bottom gate
- Year 3 - Top gate

Year 4-6 leave at 3:15pm

- Year 4 - Top gate
- Year 5 - Main gate
- Year 6 - Tennis Court gate

(siblings to leave from the same gate together)

Personal Hygiene at School

All students will be regularly reminded of correct hand hygiene during school hours, including infographics and posters on display throughout the school.

Children will be washing and sanitising upon entering the classroom and before & after break times.

Each classroom is fitted with hand sanitiser, soap and paper towel.

Please ensure your child/ren bring their own water bottle to school.

Sharing of food is not permitted.

Minimising the spread



- 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.

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

Jacqui Coles: Rel/Deputy Principal

Natalie Walker: Assistant Principal

Leanne Nielsen: Rel/Assistant Principal

Our amazing teachers and office staff who are working tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring a safe, productive and exciting return to school.

Our wonderful LEPS community who are supportive, collaborative, helpful and caring during challenging times.