



Return to School Student and Parent/Carer Guidelines

As announced by the Victorian Government, all students will return to school from **Monday 31 January**.

Please read the following information about our return to school processes:

Maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 metres will not always be practical in education settings, however it's important we all do our best to support physical distancing where possible.

The following guidelines outline strategies to support physical distancing within the on-site school environment. This will involve students socially distancing from each other at all times practicable, and from school staff, in particular:

- **Waiting patiently** for lockers and access to buildings such as classrooms and the canteen.
- Maintaining the **personal space** of others, which means keeping clear of the immediate space around another person, allowing them to feel comfortable.

General

- Any student who is unwell **must not attend** school on-site. This includes BOTH illness where symptoms are unrelated to COVID, as well as illness where symptoms align with COVID. Please stay home and seek medical advice.
- **Face masks MUST be worn by all students indoors only inline with Government restrictions.** Scarves, bandanas and other face coverings are not permitted. All students must bring their own face mask for each day.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser to school to store in their locker or pencil case. Hand sanitiser will also be stationed in areas throughout the school.
- All staff, students and visitors to schools should practise good hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet.

COVID: Reporting a Positive Result

We are required to report the following information to the Department of Education:

- The details of any student who has tested positive and **were onsite during their infectious period**.

Please contact our Attendance Officer, Rose Atallah, via the Student Absence line **9393 9018**, to notify the school if your child has tested positive to COVID.

Management of confirmed cases and household contacts at school

- Parents/carers should complete the [RA Test portal](#) if a student tests positive to COVID-19 (via a PCR or rapid antigen test).
- Students who report a positive result must isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
- Where a student is a household contact of a positive case (that is, they have spent more than four hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house, accommodation, or care facility) they must inform the school and isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
- Students must refrain from returning to school if they remain symptomatic, unless it is known that their symptoms are caused by an underlying health condition or medication.

Student Attendance

All students are expected to attend onsite. Parent preference is not an approved reason for students to be absent due to COVID-19.

Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning. Schools are not expected to provide a full remote learning program in these circumstances.

Visitors to the School

We are asking that parents/carers and visitors avoid attending the campus and minimise time spent in and around the school grounds. If parents/carers have a question, query, payment or even concern to discuss with the school, please make initial contact with the school via email or a phone call. We are required to record everyone who enters the campus.

Visitors to school grounds must comply with vaccination requirements, density limits, face mask requirements, QR code check-ins and practise respiratory etiquette and good hand hygiene.

Rapid Antigen Testing

Free rapid antigen tests will be made available for all staff and students in Victorian schools for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 2022. Rapid antigen testing will be **voluntary** for all primary, secondary and specialist school students and staff.

Table 1: Summary of rapid antigen testing recommendations for schools

Category	Recommended rapid antigen testing schedule
Secondary school staff and students	Twice weekly (school days)

Further information regarding the distribution of the Rapid Antigen Test will be provided as more information becomes available.

Ventilation

- Schools will continue to maximise ventilation through opening windows and doors and setting air conditioners to use outside air, where possible.
- Ventilation audits and CO2 monitoring are being conducted.
- Air purifiers have been distributed to our school and placed in appropriate areas throughout the campus..

Face Masks

Please see coronavirus.vic.gov.au for the latest face mask requirements.

For all school settings, the Victorian Chief Health Officer:

- Directs school staff and secondary school students to wear a face mask indoors at school, including Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) programs, unless a lawful exception applies.
- Directs school staff and students aged 12 or older must always wear a face mask when traveling to and from school on public transport, taxis or rideshare vehicles.
- Directs school staff to wear a face mask while teaching wherever practicable, except where removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication.

- **Students are not required to wear face-masks outdoors.**

There are a number of [lawful reasons for not wearing a face mask](#), including for staff and students who are unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability, medical or a mental health condition. Parents/carers of a student who meet the criteria for an exception should provide their approval in writing for their child/ren to not wear a mask to the school.

COVID Vaccinations

Getting vaccinated is the best way to be protected from and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Department encourages all students aged 12 years and over and their parents to get vaccinated as soon as possible. To book a vaccination appointment go to coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

Management of an Unwell Student

- It is important that any student who becomes unwell while at school returns home. While it may be unlikely that a student who is unwell with flu-like symptoms will have coronavirus (COVID-19) there are some sensible steps we must take while a student awaits collection by a parent or carer as a precaution.
- The symptoms to watch out for are:
 - fever
 - chills or sweats
 - cough
 - sore throat
 - shortness of breath
 - runny nose
 - loss or change in sense of smell or taste
 - Some people may also experience headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.
- Students experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19), will be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carers as soon as possible. Urgent medical attention should be sought as required and in line with first aid processes. It is not suitable for an unwell student to travel home unsupervised.

VET in Schools, TAFEs, Non-school Senior Secondary Providers and Other Training Organisations

Students can participate in their VET studies, where these are held at TAFEs, RTOs, non-school senior secondary providers, or schools.

Students enrolled in a VET subject at a non-school senior secondary provider are not required to be vaccinated to attend onsite learning.

Classrooms

- Please wait patiently for teachers to arrive to class, and provide respectful space for teachers to open doors.
- Students must not alter table arrangements, which have been set up to maximise physical distancing.
- Students are to enter and exit the classroom in a manner that respects the personal space of all.

Canteen

The canteen will be open. Students are asked to wait patiently, with only 3 students at a time to enter the canteen.

Drink Bottle Refill Stations

Students should bring their own water bottle for use at school as students should not drink directly from drinking fountains at this time. Water refill stations are based around each campus to refill student water bottles.

Bayview and Pasco Library

The library space will be accessible to students until at capacity - 60 students. Staff on duty will monitor the situation and close off access to the library if appropriate.

Library table spaces and corrals will be set up to allow physical distancing. Students must not adjust this set up.

Pasco Study Centre

The Study Centre will be accessible until at capacity – 60 students. Year 12 Student Management Leaders and other staff will close off access to the Study Centre if appropriate. Microwaves and sandwich makers will not be available to Year 12 students.

Excursions/Incursions

School excursions, incursions and camps can resume.

For camps and excursions, schools should consider current levels of COVID-related absences in their school communities and staffing pressures that may be associated with the conduct of the activity. Prior to a student attending a camp or overnight stay, parents/carers will be informed about the COVIDSafe measures that will be in place during the camp or activity and must provide permission for their child to attend, including where permission may already have been provided through a form submitted last year. In addition, parents/carers will be informed that if a confirmed or probable case was present at the camp while infectious, that students may be identified as household-like contacts and be required to quarantine for 7 days.

School Transport

The Student Transport Program, will continue operation with enhanced cleaning and physical distancing from adults (driver and other attendants) where practical. Usual timetables will apply. Students should practise hand hygiene before and after catching school transport (i.e. prior to leaving home and at the end of the school day) and practise physical distancing at bus stops and train stations and interchange locations for other shared transport services.