



COVID LEVEL 3 RESTRICTIONS

ATTENDANCE

All staff and students are expected to be at school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Schools should restrict activities to established student groupings. This may be in class, grade or stage groupings dependent on the size and organisation of the school. Consideration is to be given, where practical, to social distancing and limiting interactions between groups at entry and exit points, transitioning between classes and during recess and lunch breaks to reduce contact between student cohorts.
- 4 square metre rule applies for staff indoors.

TRAVEL

- Secondary students and staff are required to wear a mask when travelling on buses to and from school.
- Carpooling should be avoided but if unavoidable, a mask must be worn.

MASKS

NSW Health advice requires all staff must wear a face mask or covering at all times including when working outdoors in all schools operating under Level 3 restrictions – this includes in playgrounds and on school grounds. This includes adults in all Early Childhood Education and Care settings.

At school, masks or face coverings are required in all indoor settings for all students in secondary schools. Students are not required to wear a mask when outdoors.

Some exemptions apply:

- Staff are not required to wear a mask or face covering where it may affect the ability of a student or students to hear or engage with them, such as where students are hard of hearing. □

- Staff and students are not required to wear a mask where they are alone in an office or classroom.
- Masks or face coverings are not required to be worn by a staff member or student who has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, that makes wearing a mask unsuitable. For example, if they have a skin condition, an intellectual disability, autism or trauma, they are not required to wear a mask. Refer to [Face mask rules on the NSW Government website](#).
- Where a student or staff has an exemption they are required to carry this on their person at all times.

Masks are mandatory on public transport. This applies to secondary students aged 12 years and over, and staff when travelling to and from school and when travelling to school activities (i.e. sporting facilities) by chartered or private transport services.

The Public Health Order requires everyone to carry a mask on them at all times. Schools will have an emergency supply of masks, however **staff and students will be required to supply their own** as they are required to wear a mask on public transport or as soon as they exit their home or vehicle.

VISITORS

Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites including:

- No parents and families
- No official visitors and dignitaries
- No media and production crews

Allied Health providers are permitted and should continue to operate in a COVID safe way.

Parents and carers must follow their school's advice regarding changes to student drop off and pick up. This includes staying in the car when dropping off and picking up children if it is safe to do so. This does not apply to drop off and pick up from outside of school hours care (OOSHC) as sign in and out procedures are required.

Parents should:

- follow the [physical distancing advice](#) for their local area and avoid gathering outside of school gates
- remain outside of school grounds (some exceptions may exist re vulnerable students or students with disability)
- Adhere to mask-wearing requirements and sign-in using the Service NSW QR code when entering the school.

Refer to their school requirements for travelling to school safely for support with student drop off and pick up.

CSO STAFF

- Services should be delivered online, including any professional learning
- Staff providing essential support for student wellbeing are permitted onsite, such as counsellors.
 - CSO Executive approval is required for a CSO staff member to visit a school, for an essential reason only.
- CSO Executive members are permitted to visit a school if the visit is deemed to be essential.

WHAT IS PERMITTED DURING SCHOOL HOURS OR WITHIN SCHOOLS UNDER LEVEL 3 RESTRICTIONS

Schools can continue to operate:

- Canteens where appropriate hygiene measures are in place
- Early childhood services (OSHC, vacation care, pre-schools etc)

Workers supporting the infrastructure development and maintenance of schools can continue on site. This includes contractors, general assistants, farm hands and other grounds support staff.

Allied Health partners and non-school staff who are unable to deliver critical services remotely.

WHAT IS PERMITTED WITH MODIFICATION

School based activities

- Dance and/or drama are permitted in-line with COVID Safe practices within classes in outdoor spaces. Mixing of classes is not permitted (except for HSC assessment purposes with COVID Safe practices in place)
- Schools must make alternative arrangements for graduations, formals and school dances that align with the broader guidance. This includes:
 - No mingling of student cohorts
 - No visitors (including parents and carers)
 - Events to align with current health order restricting size of gatherings
 - COVID Safe planning
 - Personal hygiene, physical distancing, cleaning and record keeping practices must be adhered to at these events.
- Library activities are permitted in-line with the Infection Control requirement for Libraries
- PDHPE Prac lessons:

- All equipment is to be sanitised as often as is practical, at the very least before and after each class.
- Activities involving no or little hand held equipment is to be prioritised.
- Indoor activities (halls) are to be as well ventilated as possible.
- Indoor gym equipment to be sanitised between users.
- Outdoor classes to be prioritised.
- Swimming for schools with on ground pools (St John's College, Woodlawn) permitted with all other restrictions required.
- Social distancing requirements (1.5m rule), where practical must be adhered to.
- Hand sanitising required at the start and end of each session and to be available throughout.
- Uniform Stores can only operate if they:
 - are online
 - have pre-ordering arrangements in place, with one dedicated staff member attending outside of school hours to arrange distribution.

TRADE SCHOOLS, VET AND TAFE COURSES

- VET work placements should be deferred wherever possible. NESAI has advised that students who cannot complete their VET work placement due to COVID-related impacts will still be eligible for the HSC. Any placements must be subject to appropriate risk assessments and confirmed with the CSO VET Consultant.
- White card training is permitted. Delivery can be online, however, providers must conduct courses in real-time.
- Trade schools, VET and TAFE courses should continue to be delivered virtually or deferred.
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships training should continue to be delivered virtually or deferred. Employment for these programs is deferred.

PRACTICUM TEACHERS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT

- Schools who choose to accommodate placements will only support final year pre-service teachers who are due to graduate by the end of this semester.
- Professional experience placements are voluntary for all schools.
- Schools should provide face-to-face learning opportunities for pre-service teachers where possible and mixed delivery learning opportunities where face to face is not possible.

ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT PERMITTED OR ON HOLD DURING SCHOOL HOURS OR WITHIN SCHOOL GROUNDS

Schools must not recommence the following activities:

- Singing, chanting, group repetition and choirs
- Sport (limited PDHPE activities permitted as outlined above)
- Bands and ensembles
- Emergency drills - drills should be put on hold until further notice
- Interschool activities and events including interschool sport, gala days, sporting carnivals, interregional and intrastate programs
- Any and all Assemblies
- School performances, productions, concerts, speech nights and award presentations
- Excursions, camps, field trips and principal-endorsed activities for students
- Student visits to aged care facilities.

Onsite school transition and orientation programs are to be postponed until further notice.

Compliance training (e.g. First aid/CPR) is to be conducted online until further notice.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Schools must cease the following activities:

- Community events (fetes, grandparents' days etc.)
- Playgroups
- P&F activities, including meetings (unless held online only)
- All external providers and specialist programs not directly related to educational outcomes and support, including Community Use of School Facilities (such as markets and all after school activities) unless delivered online only
- Community Language Schools
- School holiday programs (noting that vacation care programs on school sites may continue).

EXAMS

Schools must implement COVID Safe arrangements for exams to minimise mingling between students, ensure that students are appropriately spaced and that exams are conducted in well-ventilated rooms and spaces.

MEETINGS, STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS, PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Staff must:

- use virtual platforms where applicable.
- follow health advice in regards to gatherings.
- small essential staff meetings are permitted within the four square meter rule with all participants in face masks.
- Four square meter rule required to be abided by in Staff Rooms.

Non-school based staff may only attend by online meeting platforms.

PRESCHOOLS MANAGED BY CATHOLIC SECTOR

Preschools are to be managed consistent with the schools in accordance with these guidelines.

Preschools should consider procedures to support pick up and drop off from the preschool gates. Where this is not possible or unsafe, families should pick up from the door of the service, following COVID-safe guidelines.

VENTILATION

Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air than in spaces with less ventilation. Outdoor settings may be used where practicable.

Take steps to improve ventilation in indoor settings:

- open windows and doors where possible
- avoid directing fans towards people's faces.
- regularly inspect, maintain and clean heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- avoid using only recirculated air in HVAC systems, and increase the outside air intake
- consider disabling ventilation controls with automated settings that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy
- ensure exhaust fans are operational if in place

BORDER SCHOOLS

It is anticipated that some form of blended learning will continue. Blended learning will look different in each school due to the number of families and staff that are affected. John Wilson will provide direct support to these schools. The CSO will continue to explore and develop options and plans for the 'Q Hub', Blended learning hub in Qld for Qld based staff and students.