



6 May 2020

## Term 2, 2020 COVID-19 arrangements – Parent factsheet and frequently asked questions

As Queensland is continuing to see a low number of COVID-19 cases and a positive response to physical distancing measures, changes have been made to the arrangements for state schools in Term 2, 2020 to allow more students to return to school in a phased approach.

The following information is provided to assist parents and carers.

### What are the new arrangements and when do they take effect?

**From Monday 11 May 2020**, Queensland school students in Kindy, Prep, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12, will be able to return to school and Kindergarten.

Children of essential workers, vulnerable children and children in designated Indigenous communities will continue to be able to attend school for supervision.

### What about children in other year levels?

Students (Years 2-6) will continue with the Distance Learning Model.

If low transmission rates continue, students in Years 2-6 will be able to return to school from **Monday 25 May 2020**. Confirmation of this next step will be made by 15 May 2020.

### Is it expected that children in Prep and Year 1 attend school from 11 May 2020?

Yes. Schools will resume regular teaching and learning for students in these year levels as part of the phased return to school.

It is acknowledged that some parents of Prep and Year 1 students may still wish to keep their children home from school due to concerns about COVID-19 and due to student health concerns. This is an acceptable decision and your child won't be marked as being absent, rather that they are learning from home. In these cases, parents and carers remain responsible for their children.

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As is currently the case, parents will be required to communicate with the school about their child's absence from school. This includes when a parent chooses to keep their child at home due to concerns about COVID-19 as well as when a child is ill. When you contact the school with this information you may also wish to discuss any support you may need to assist you with your child's learning at home.

Parents and carers of students with health support needs are encouraged to consult their health practitioner when deciding if their child should attend school.

## **Why are only Kindy, Prep, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 students returning to school?**

As part of the easing of restrictions applied under the COVID-19 response, schools will commence a phased return to regular schooling.

We want to take the earliest possible action to allow students to resume on-site learning and early years students (Kindy, Prep & Year 1) and students in their senior years (Years 11 & 12) have been identified as the first cohorts to return to back to school.

These year levels have been chosen for a number of reasons. Research clearly shows that the early years of schooling is when the building blocks for learning occurs. By allowing our young children to return to Kindy, Prep and Year 1 we can continue to provide them with the teaching and learning that enables them to grow into capable and confident young people.

We also know that the senior years of schooling are important as young adults make decisions about the pathways they will take after school. In addition, 2020 is the first year of Queensland's new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance (SATE) reforms and it is important that our senior students continue their learning at their school during this significant year.

Children of essential workers and vulnerable children from other year levels will continue attending school sites as they have done since the commencement of Term 2.

## **What will happen with students in Years 2–6?**

Years 2–6 will continue under the Distance Learning Model. Teachers will continue to deliver prepared lessons and materials for these students via home-based learning, as they have since the start of Term 2.

If low transmission rates continue, students in Years 2–6 will be able to return to school from Monday 25 May, 2020. Confirmation of this next step will be made by 15 May 2020.

Parents and carers continue to be responsible for student safety and wellbeing at home or elsewhere.

## **Is it safe for students in Prep and Year 1 to attend school?**

The decision to return to school for these year levels is informed by advice provided by the Australian Health Principal Protection Committee (AHPPC) and discussions with Queensland Health about a phased return to regular schooling.

Schools are identified as safe places for students and present low risk in relation to the spread of COVID-19.

The following measures will continue to be in place in schools:

- **students and staff who are unwell must not attend school.**
- physical distancing of 1.5 metres is required by all adults.
- adults must not gather in and around school grounds, car parks, school gates and outside classrooms.
- **parents should use the drop-off and pick-up zone and refrain from walking their child in to school.**
- students will engage in regular effective handwashing and hygiene protocols, including regularly washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser and covering coughs and sneezes.
- increased cleaning frequencies of high-touch surfaces such as light switches and door handles.
- technology such as video conferencing used for gatherings, meetings and assemblies.
- school swimming pools remain closed and excursions, camps, trips and interschool activities are postponed at this time.

### **Has this decision to transition students back to school been supported by health advice?**

Yes. Queensland's Chief Health Officer has provided advice and been involved in the decision making that has enabled the Government to make this decision.

The Chief Health Officer has provided her support for the staged return to school, including recognising the importance of commencing with a return to school-based arrangements for children at either end of the student cohort (Kindy, Prep, Year 1 and Year 11, 12 students).

The Chief Health Officer has also agreed that the staged return to school over several weeks, if low COVID-19 transmission rates continue, will provide critical time for schools to develop and implement arrangements to ensure the transition can be made safely for teachers, support staff, parents and carers and students.

### **Will schools need to change routines or operations with some students returning?**

Schools will continue to actively manage routines and protocols in and around the school site. Social distancing and physical distancing measures remain in place and it is important that schools continue to practice these measures.

While the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advises that physical distancing is not required for students during classroom activities, schools may implement additional strategies including:

- using larger, alternative locations or classrooms within the school.
- designating drop-off/pick-up points for parents in spacious areas.

- making use of outdoor learning spaces.
- restricting the use of playground areas and equipment.

Schools will continue to manage timetable arrangements locally. Changes are likely to be made to previous schedules as school staff deliver both home-based learning and on-site delivery. Schools will communicate with parents regarding any changes to their usual routines.

### **Are camps, excursions, school concerts and musicals able to proceed?**

No. At this time, it is not planned for these activities to resume during Term 2 given the social nature of these events. These restrictions will be reviewed in light of ongoing health advice.

### **Will Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services be available?**

Outside school hours care (OSHC) services will continue to operate before and after school care where there is demand. This will include on-site OSHC or other services off site that cater for school age children, such as long day care or family day care. Parents are encouraged to contact their local OSHC provider to confirm arrangements.

### **Will tuckshops be operating at schools?**

Schools or tuckshop providers will advise parents of local tuckshop operating arrangements.

Our plan for tuckshop will be:

**Week 4** – Wednesday only.

**Week 5** – Wednesday and Friday providing the need is there for this extra day.

**Week 6** – Wednesday – Friday.

Please ensure that **all tuckshop orders are placed through Flexischools** by Tuesday 9:00am, as **no** over-the-counter orders will be accepted.

### **What are schools doing to ensure the health and hygiene of students on site?**

Schools will continue to ensure high standards of health and hygiene are practiced on site. Schools will continue to promote handwashing and hand hygiene and will use additional cleaning allocations to frequently clean high use touch points in and around the school.

The school's Library will remain closed to borrowing until directed otherwise by the Government.

### **Is there anything that parents and carers can do to assist?**

Social and physical distancing protocols continue to apply to adults in a school setting. We can all help to restrict the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to these protocols.

Schools will be taking action to limit the number of non-essential adults entering schools as well as implementing new procedures where required to limit the amount of adult to adult contact in and around schools.

This may mean different arrangements for pick-up and drop-off, on-line meetings between parents and staff rather than face-to-face and different staff room arrangements for staff. Individual schools will make the appropriate arrangements for their community.

Parents can help by minimising the need to enter the school, not gathering inside or outside schools, working with school staff and with new protocols or ways of working in and around the school.

Parents can also assist by ensuring their child stays away from school if they are showing any signs or symptoms of illness.

Parents can also assist by ensuring that their child brings their own water bottle to school every day.

### **What will happen if my child's teacher is unwell or a vulnerable worker?**

Schools will manage staffing allocations as they normally do. If a teacher is unwell or unable to attend school due to their own health reasons, principals will engage supply teachers as required.

### **Will there be access to support for student wellbeing?**

Yes. School staff will continue to be alert to the needs of students as we return to school. If parents are particularly concerned about their child's wellbeing they should contact their school.

### **Will my child still be able to access school transport arrangements?**

Yes. Normal school transport arrangements will continue to apply.

### **Are there changes to assessment and reporting?**

Assessment and reporting for Term 2 and Semester 1 will be adjusted to reflect the nature of learning over this time. If you require more information regarding assessment and reporting for your child, please speak to your child's teacher.

### **What will happen in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19?**

The Government has established protocols if a confirmed case is identified in a school. The school follows the advice of Queensland Health. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school community, the school may need to temporarily close to allow time for public health authorities to conduct contact tracing and deep cleaning to be undertaken, to ensure the safety of staff and students prior to reopening.

Please note as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, plans are subject to change.

### **What uniform will students wear?**

Until we have all students back into a normal routine at school, all students attending school are to wear Sports Uniform each day.