

COVID-safe plan 2024

COVID-safe measures continue to be practised at all Department for Education, Children and Young People sites. These measures include encouraging COVID-safe behaviours, maintaining safe sites and engaging with families. Risks continue to be managed relating to activities on sites, school travel and vulnerable students. While this plan has been developed for schools, our COVID-safe measures are practical and can be applied at any Department for Education, Children and Young People sites.



COVID-safe behaviours

Hygiene

- Do not come to school if unwell – this applies to staff, students and visitors.
- Keep your hands clean by using soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Staff, students and visitors are asked to practise all COVID-safe behaviours and follow Public Health advice that is relevant to their personal circumstances.

Face masks

- All students, staff and visitors are supported to wear masks should they choose to.
- Consider wearing a face mask indoors where you cannot physically distance from others.

Vaccination

- Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines helps protect you from severe illness due to COVID-19.
- Staff, students and visitors are encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and influenza.



Safe sites

Supporting COVID-safe behaviours

- Hand sanitiser and face masks are available at all sites for anyone to use.

Ventilation

- Spaces are well-ventilated through natural airflow where possible.
- Other mechanical equipment may be used at times to promote airflow and improve ventilation.
- Schools will take advantage of outdoor learning opportunities.

Cleaning

- Regular cleaning is undertaken.



Family engagement

- Families and volunteers are welcome in schools, for indoor and outdoor activities and events, as long as they do not have symptoms and follow any school advice.
- Schools may need to implement additional risk mitigations for events and activities to minimise the risk of COVID-19, such as limiting the number of attendees or requiring physical distancing.



Activities

- All school activities can occur as long as the risks associated with COVID-19 are managed. This includes excursions (day and overnight), school camps, fairs and carnivals, productions, assemblies and prize nights.
- All activities should encourage COVID-safe behaviours and consider the COVID-19 risk in the community at that time as part of activity planning.
- Depending on the level of COVID-19 risk associated with the activity or present in the community, additional consideration may be required to ensure spaces are well-ventilated, face masks are readily available, physical distancing is supported or the numbers of participants are limited.
- Intrastate travel, including overnight excursions and camps, can go ahead with appropriate Department approval and a risk mitigation plan.



Interstate and international travel for school groups

- Interstate and international travel for school groups can occur with a risk assessment and contingency plan in place.
- Department approval must be sought for interstate and international travel.
- Considerations for travelling must be revised prior to departure to ensure the risk assessment remains up to date.



Vulnerable students

- All Tasmanians have a role to protect the vulnerable. By following COVID-safe behaviours and staying home when unwell, you help protect vulnerable students from the impacts of COVID-19.
- School staff wear masks when working closely with students known to be medically vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Where possible, families of students vulnerable to COVID-19 will be communicated with when there is an unexpected increase in COVID-19 cases in their class.
- Staff do not provide direct support to students medically vulnerable to COVID-19 for at least seven days from testing positive to COVID-19.
- Support Schools have additional restrictions for COVID positive cases and close contacts