

# Term 1 2021 guidelines for schools

The Term 1, 2021 guidelines have been updated in line with the advice from NSW Health obtained in January 2021. Many of the restrictions that were in place in November 2020 have been maintained due to the current COVID-19 situation affecting NSW. Parents are reminded to refer to the relevant resources on their school's website for further details.

## Parents and carers

- Parents and carers should be reminded that students must not attend school if they are unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms. Students must return a negative COVID-19 test and be symptom free prior to returning to school.
- Parents and carers can enter the school to:
  - purchase or pick up uniforms from the uniform shop
  - meet with school staff with an appointment
  - drop off students for department Preschool, Kindergarten and Years 1, 2 and 7
  - attend parent orientation meetings for Preschool, Kindergarten or Year 7 and 'meet the teacher' meetings with school staff for all year/stage groups. Meetings should be limited to 1 hour where possible. A COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place.
- Gatherings are limited to 30 people indoors and 30 people outdoors for schools within Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong or 100 people outdoors for all other locations. Gatherings should be limited to 1 hour where possible and a COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place.
- P&C meetings can occur after school hours with restrictions.
- Community outdoor social events and functions can proceed after school hours with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. These are limited to 30 people outdoors for schools within Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong or 100 people outdoors for all other locations.

## School activities

- Term 1 school development days can proceed for staff within the same school or local school network with no limits to the number of attendees.
- Professional learning can proceed for staff within the same school or local school network and may include local non-school based staff with strict adherence with physical distancing and personal hygiene practices.
- If schools wish to hold Professional Learning that involves more participants and/or exceeds 1 hour in duration, they will require a COVID-19 Safety Plan for functions and conferences.
- Staff residing and working in Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong regions should avoid travel to regional areas where possible.
- NSW Health advised that communal water fountains and/or bubblers in NSW schools can now be turned on. Schools should continue to encourage students to bring water bottles from home that they can refill when needed.
- Field trips, excursions and camps to VIC, QLD and ACT can continue where interstate border requirements permit.
- Swimming and other sporting carnivals can proceed with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.
- Gala days, placement tests, school performances, Schools Spectacular and other major school events can be planned for 2021 with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.
- Students must not attend aged care facilities for school activities.

## Face Masks

- Staff and students are not required to wear masks while at school. Staff and students are permitted to wear their own mask if they choose.