



Dear Parents and Carers

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our community

We are all excited about the plans for return to face to face learning in Term 4. School is vital for education, social development and wellbeing. Working together we can ensure our students and our staff and parents are safe in the community and at school.

Under existing arrangements, Kindergarten and Year 1 will be the first to return on 25 October, followed by Years 2, 6 and 11 from 1 November and all remaining year levels from 8 November.

At the same time, we are all concerned about the increasing number of COVID positive cases in our local government area. NSW Health data shows increasing COVID-positive cases in the inner city from Elizabeth Bay to Glebe, Redfern, Waterloo and Camperdown.

To support the safest possible return to school we must all try to remain safe from the spread of COVID-19 over the holiday period and the weeks up to the return to school.

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, practise good hygiene and physical distancing and follow the rules for public gatherings, quarantine and isolation:

(information taken from <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19> and <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>)

Good hygiene

Everyone – even when well – can help slow the spread of COVID-19. This means:

- wash your hands often with soap and water. This includes before and after eating and after going to the toilet. Use alcohol-based hand sanitisers when you can't use soap and water
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- clean and disinfect surfaces you use often such as benchtops, desks and doorknobs
- increase the amount of fresh air by opening windows and doors

Physical distancing

One way to slow the spread of viruses, such as coronavirus, is physical distancing. The more space between you and others, the harder it is for the virus to spread. Physical distancing in public means people keep 1.5 metres away from others wherever possible, avoid physical greetings such as handshaking, hugs and kisses and avoid crowds

Public gatherings

Understand the limits that apply to essential gatherings and non-essential gatherings.

Masks

Wearing a mask can help protect you and those around you if you are in an area with community transmission, and physical distancing is not possible.

Stay at home if you have any cold or flu symptoms. Seek medical advice and get tested for COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever (37.5 degrees Celsius or higher), cough, sore throat, shortness of breath (difficulty breathing), runny nose, loss of taste, loss of smell. Other reported symptoms include fatigue, acute blocked nosed (congestion), muscle pain, joint pain, headache, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite.

Getting tested

Anyone who has symptoms should get tested for COVID-19. A symptom is a sign that you might be sick. The COVID-19 test is free, easy and quick. Find a COVID-19 clinic by using the following link – <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/clinics.aspx>

If you need a COVID-19 test and can't go to a testing clinic, find out about COVID-19 testing at home by using this link – <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/covid-19/Pages/home-testing.aspx>

Vaccinations

All NSW public school and preschool staff on-site to support the staged return of student cohorts from 25 October will be required to be fully vaccinated.

Anyone aged 12 to 15 now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. Parents and carers can [book in their children for Pfizer now](#), or Moderna from late September.

Vaccination appointments are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. More appointments will become available as supply increases, so keep checking for new appointments in coming weeks.

Parent and carer enquiries can be made to this link [NSW Government's COVID-19 vaccination bookings for 12-15-year-olds page](#).

Some local venues to get vaccinations include;

Daceyville PCYC – Monday 13 – Friday 17th September, 9.30am – 3.30pm. Pfizer available for vulnerable people under 60yo, AstraZeneca available for over 18yo. No Booking – walk in clinic

Koori Vaccination Clinic – National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), 166 – 180 George St Redfern. Pfizer Vaccine available for Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islanders aged 12 yo + and their families. Booking preferred or call Aboriginal Medical Services 1800 955 566. Clinic onsite 13 – 18 the September, 23 – 25th September, 30 September – 2nd October.

Green Square Library – Pfizer vaccines available for 16 – 59 yo, booking via Sydney Local Health District or you can walk in. No confirmed end day but likely to be the end of September.

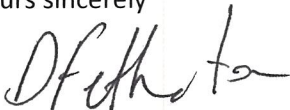
NSW Health – getting help

You can call:

- Disability Information Helpline: 1800 643 787. Call if you need help because of COVID-19 (coronavirus).
- National Coronavirus Helpline: 1800 020 080. Call for advice about COVID-19, or help with COVIDSafe App.
- Service NSW: 13 77 88. Call for information and support from the NSW Government during COVID-19.
- NSW Mental Health Access Line: 1800 011 511. Call anytime for mental health support.
- National Relay Service: 1800 555 660. If you are hard of hearing, deaf, deafblind or have a speech impairment you can call this number to communicate with voice callers.

For COVID-19 translated services, click on the following link – <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/multilingual.aspx>

Yours sincerely



Diane Fetherston

Principal

15 September 2021