

3 February 2022

Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers

I sincerely hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well.

With the release of the Queensland Government's Back to School Plan, I felt it best to provide you a set of FAQs in response to this plan as it relates to Nerang High.

The Queensland Back to School 2022 plan is available here: [Link](#).

This is the plan for the next 4 weeks, 7 February to 4 March, and it provides a direction that intends to support all students and staff as we commence onsite learning from next Monday.

Year level information for next week's commencement was sent home to you on Monday 31st January.

On Monday, for our new Year 7 students, we will have an orientation meeting in the Hall at 9:00 am. For all other new students, they will need to meet outside the Administration building and we will escort them to their classroom.

Who needs to wear a face mask?

Currently, all high school students (including those under 12 years of age) and staff are required to wear masks while at school (both indoors and outdoors). This same protocol applies to volunteers, family members, contractors and other visitors. Face masks are also required when travelling on a school bus.

When in the classroom, face masks may be removed by students and teachers that are seated or if physical distancing can be maintained. For all other indoor venues (eg Offices, Admin building, hallways, Staffrooms, etc) students are required to keep their mask on.

Students are expected to supply their own mask, and if this is not possible we have a small supply we can use to provide them with a mask.

As has always been the case, people with particular medical conditions or disabilities are exempt from wearing a mask. Please email Fiona Carter at fcart10@eq.edu.au should an exemption be applicable to your child.

Does physical distancing apply to students and staff?

When working with children, staff are not required to physically distance from students when they are wearing a mask. Students are not expected to physically distance from one another when seated in the classroom. Students are not expected to physically distance from one another when outside the classroom if they are wearing a mask.

What support is available for student wellbeing?

Our Student Support Services Team will continue to be alert to the wellbeing needs of students. If parents are concerned about their child's wellbeing they should contact the school and ask to speak to a member of the Support Team or email one of the Guidance Officers - Elice Grandfils (egran9@eq.edu.au) for Years 7 to 9 and Rishi Jagunundan for Years 10 to 12 (rjagu4@eq.edu.au).

What if my child has a medical condition or is medically vulnerable and unable to attend school?

Students who are unable to attend school due to medical reasons (supporting documentation required) will be supported. Please contact the appropriate Deputy Principal via email, including supporting medical evidence.

What if my child is unwell?

Any child who is showing signs of illness or feeling unwell, must stay at home. If they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, visit the Queensland Health website to determine the right test for their situation.

If your child is showing signs of illness at school, we will immediately contact you to collect your child from Parent Reception.

Our school will soon have a supply of RATs which will be provided to parents for students who, while attending school, develop COVID-19 symptoms. We will have to keep children who present with COVID-19 symptoms isolated in a separate sick bay room in our Admin building. When the parent arrives to collect the child, we'll provide the parent with a Rapid Antigen Test and ask that they go home and perform the test.

Will the school be providing vaccinations?

No. The school does not administer vaccines. All COVID vaccinations are conducted by health professionals at a vaccination hub, pharmacy, medical practice or hospital. In all cases, vaccinations can only take place if you take your child there to be vaccinated.

Do I come to school to collect a RAT if my child is sick at home?

No. All students who are sick or showing COVID-19 symptoms should visit a Queensland Health testing clinic. The department has advised that students will be prioritised to collect a RAT and be able to take it home to administer. Priority access to RATs for students and staff is available at [Queensland Health testing clinics](#).

If the test result is negative and they are well, the student can return to school. If the test is positive, you must follow Queensland Health [quarantine and isolation requirements](#).

Are teachers expected to provide remote learning to unwell children?

No. If your child is unwell, they should rest and recover. Students can still access the learning materials in their class OneNote and will be able to use this, with the support of their teacher when they return to school, to catch up.

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

We will advise the community of any positive cases that have been in our school. The Department of Education will follow the advice and requirements from Queensland Health, and will work with our school community to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of staff, students and visitors are prioritised. We will not release the details of who has tested positive; be assured that your child's personal medical details will not be divulged.

In line with the Queensland Government's [managing COVID-19 in workplaces](#), deep cleaning is no longer required where a positive case of COVID-19 has been identified. The two-step precautionary clean, involving a normal hygienic clean followed by sanitising, is sufficient for schools and other workplaces to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Students who test positive are currently required to isolate for 7 days.

What if there is insufficient staff to supervise students?

Our school has plans in place to ensure continuity of learning for all students and to minimise disruption to student learning. Nonetheless, there may be times when we need to adjust the timetable, combine classes, or bring in relief staff to manage any workforce challenges. While unlikely, there may even be a need to close the school on Education Department or Qld Health advice.

Will sporting events be continuing?

Yes. Sporting events will continue on and off school sites.

Except where restrictions are in place, schools will be able to conduct school sport programs, including inter-school and representative competitions, for both indoor and outdoor sports, following health and safety requirements to ensure these events are COVID safe.

What about Camps, Excursions and Assemblies?

Excursions and camps scheduled between now and 4 March are cancelled. We will reschedule any excursions that are imperative to the curriculum. These will occur as soon as possible after 4 March.

Assemblies and any other large gatherings have also been cancelled until 4 March. Our first assembly is the investiture of our senior leaders, due to occur this week. We will be holding a substitute ceremony so that our leaders are recognised and receive their badges and blazers.

Are rehearsals and performances allowed for instrumental music programs, ensembles and choirs?

Yes, the school is able to conduct its instrumental music programs, ensembles and choir rehearsals, following COVID safe measures.

Can parents and carers come onto the school site?

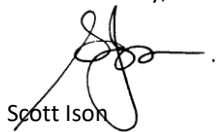
Parents and Carers are only coming into the school to access the Uniform Shop or to deliver enrolment documentation. In the case of enrolments, please deliver the documents by following the signs and dropping them through the slot in the window.

Otherwise, for the next month, please do not come into the school, we can handle most other interactions over the phone.

Whilst I am certain that I have not responded to all questions, I will continue to update the FAQ's based upon staff feedback on questions asked.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Ison
Principal