



Coronavirus (COVID-19) information and schools – information for parents and students

All Australian governments – federal, state and territory – recognise the importance of education and are committed to supporting students' learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

State and territory governments and non-government sector authorities are responsible for managing and making operational decisions for their schools. For information about how schools in your area are responding to COVID-19 please contact your school in the first instance, and follow the advice from your state or territory government. Links to state and territory government education websites are below:

[Australian Capital Territory](#)

[New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Victoria](#)

[Western Australia](#)

State and territory governments have agreed that decisions about how to respond to COVID-19 in schools must continue to be informed by expert, official, national and state-based public health and education advice.

Reducing potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools

On **24 April 2020**, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) released [health advice](#) in relation to reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools. This practical guidance and advice has been prepared for school leaders engaging with children, parents, teachers and support staff to reduce even further the relatively low risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In summary things to consider include:

- **For parents:** if your child is sick, they must not go to school. You must keep them at home and away from others. Remember to maintain physical distancing from other parents and teachers when attending school, including when dropping off and picking up your children.
- **For children:** tell your parent, guardian or teacher if you are feeling sick.
- **For teachers:** do not come to work if you are sick or in a vulnerable person category.
- **For all adults:** the greatest risk of transmission in the school environment is between adults. It is of utmost importance that teachers and parents alike maintain physical distancing between themselves and each other at school.

Hygiene

Students are reminded to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water including before and after eating and after going to the toilet.
- Use hand sanitiser.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm or a tissue (not your hands).
- Put your used tissues in a bin straight away and then wash your hands.
- Try not to touch your mouth or face.
- Don't hold hands, or shake hands with others.
- Try to keep more space than normal between yourself and others.
- Avoid queuing.
- Reach out to others if you are feeling anxious.

Senior secondary arrangements and university admissions

On 7 April 2020, state and territory Education Ministers agreed that senior secondary students (students year 12) will be able to achieve a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education this year, and that certificate will facilitate access to university, further education and employment.

NAPLAN

On 20 March 2020, Education Ministers decided that NAPLAN will not proceed in 2020. NAPLAN was scheduled to be held from 12 to 22 May 2020.

The decision to not proceed with NAPLAN in 2020 has been taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education.

NAPLAN is a national assessment that tests students' ability in three areas of literacy—reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)—and in numeracy. Schools in all states and territories have administered NAPLAN in May every year since 2008.