



Family Update - Week 3, Term 4

Friday 22 October 2021

Dear Hurlstone students and families,

This is the last of our weekly updates as we transition to face-to-face learning on Monday. Thank you for your feedback and continued support of our staff as we prepare – with great excitement – to welcome students and staff back on site.

We will continue to keep you updated with fortnightly newsletters and email updates as needed should our situation change under NSW Health guidance.

Return to school plan communication

On Thursday we ran through our return to school plan with Years 7 to 11 students in a series of virtual assemblies. Our students asked thoughtful questions which showed they had already engaged with the school's operational plan published on our school website.

On Thursday evening almost 100 parents participated in our return to school information session over Zoom, held just prior to our HSC Minimum Standards online information session for Year 10 parents and carers which was delivered by our relieving Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, Ms Klappas.

It was wonderful to see so many families join us from the Greater Sydney area as well as the regions to go over the details of our return to school plan and ask questions. Some of the key questions that have been asked and answered in our information session are outlined below.

Return to school roadmap: questions and answers

Does my child need to be fully vaccinated before they return to school?

No. While students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated (students aged 12 and above are now eligible for the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine), they will still be able to attend school even if they have received only one or no dose of the vaccine.

Will the teachers be vaccinated?

All school staff must be fully vaccinated before coming on site. The vaccination status of our staff has been checked by the principal to confirm this.

Will students be required to wear masks?

Yes. Masks are **required** to be worn by all students in Years 7 - 12 when indoors and when travelling on public transport.

Masks do not need to be worn outdoors or when students are eating, drinking or exercising.

What social distancing arrangements will be in place at school when students return?

We have adopted a year-based cohorting model which will determine the arrival and leave times for students as well as designated areas for each year group during break times. Students must only use these designated areas unless accessing the canteen or toilets.

Within each cohort, students should maintain strict personal hygiene and physical distancing.

For more details about our cohorting model, adjusted bell times and designated drop-off and pick-up zones, please refer to our [Return to School Operational Plan](#) on the school website.

Will online classes also continue at the same time as face to face lessons this term?

No. All of our students are expected to be back at school for face-to-face learning (one mode of learning delivery) from Monday 25 October. After this date we will only be supporting learning from home where this is required by NSW Health to do so.

All students should be at school next Monday, unless:

- they have a medical certificate which says they can't return to school due to a condition or illness
- they are currently unwell
- they have been asked by NSW Health to self-isolate.

Please contact your child's Deputy Principal if you need support to put a plan in place to support your child's return to school.

What if my child has COVID-19 symptoms?

Students must not attend school if they are unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any student with any COVID-19 symptoms must be sent home and not return to school unless:

- they have a negative COVID-19 test result and are symptom free or
- they have isolated for 10 days, when no medical certificate is available.

In circumstances where students have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

What if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19?

The department will continue to work closely with NSW Health and other relevant agencies when a positive COVID-19 case is identified to have an impact on schools.

Please refer to the department's [COVID-19 response protocols](#) for more information.

What if my child has an underlying medical condition that makes them vulnerable to COVID-19?

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the NSW Department of Education must take reasonable steps to ensure that a student with disability can participate in education programs on the same basis as a student without disability, and without experiencing discrimination. This does not mean all students are treated the same, but does mean that we will be flexible in managing the return to school of students with disability, especially when medical advice confirms they are vulnerable to COVID-19 (e.g. the student is immuno-suppressed).

If parents or carers believe that their child has a condition that means it's not safe for them to return to school, they will need to provide a medical certificate. In this instance, families should speak with their doctor or health care provider to develop a [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) to support decision-making about their activities, including attendance at school.

Which activities and events will be able to run at school this term?

Many school-based activities will remain on hold, including large celebrations such as presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events.

For a full list of what is permitted and what is on hold, refer to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/level-3-plus-schools#What11>.

Where can we find the department's latest advice on COVID-19 requirements?

The department's [Advice for families](#) is updated regularly.

Uniform Shop website now live

Families can place uniform orders via the Uniform Shop website: www.quickcliq.com.au.

Instructions on how to use the new online system are attached for easy reference .

School Visitor Check-In

Only essential visitors are allowed on school sites at this time. When dropping off or picking up your child, please remain in your vehicle.

If you need to enter the school, you will need to wear a mask and physically distance. Please call reception first on 02 9829 9222 (or 02 9829 9232 for the Boarding School Administration Office) and our staff will give you instructions about how to check in using the new [School Visitor Check-In](#) system.

Students or visitors under the age of 18 are not required to use School Visitor Check-In.

Thank you again for the remarkable resilience and sense of community that has sustained our school over the last thirteen weeks of learning from home. We look forward to welcoming all our students back on site on Monday.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

Christine Castle, Principal and the Senior Executive
Hurlstone Agricultural High School