



Family Update - Week 1, Term 4

Friday 8 October 2021

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Dear Hurlstone students and families,

We hope the end of the week brings some relief after the many changes announced in the last few days. It was great to see our students in their classes re-engaging with their teachers and their peers online.

Learning from home will continue for **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11** in Weeks 1 to 3. All students will return to face-to-face learning on **Monday 25 October**. We are excited about welcoming our students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens.

Extensive planning has taken place to accommodate the earlier return announced by the new Premier. Our COVID-safe return to school planning is based on NSW Health advice and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning.

An infographic from the NSW Department of Education that outlines these measures can be found below.

Our full COVID-safe return to school plan will be made available to families next week.

COVID-safe operations for schools

Students return to face-to-face learning in staged cohorts. COVID-safe operations are maintained through high rates of staff and student vaccination, safe rostering and physical distancing.

Department Preschools, Kindergarten & Year 1

18 October

All other years

25 October

From 18 October, students sitting their HSC exams will be able to access their schools full-time for revision and study sessions.

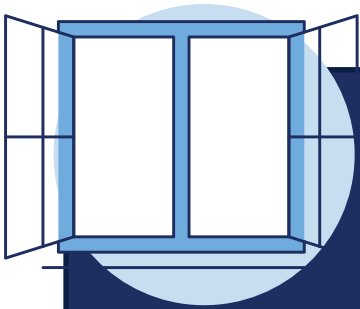


Students should be at school from the date indicated for their year group unless they are unwell.

Drop-offs and pick-ups



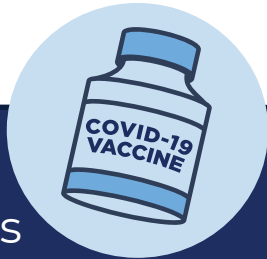
Drop-offs and pick-ups will be by staggered groups and all entrances and exits will be used to start and finish school days. Please follow the physical distancing rules, avoid gathering outside gates, remain off school grounds and wear a mask. (some exceptions made for vulnerable students.) Try to stay in the car. This does not apply to (OOSHC). Sign-in procedures are required.



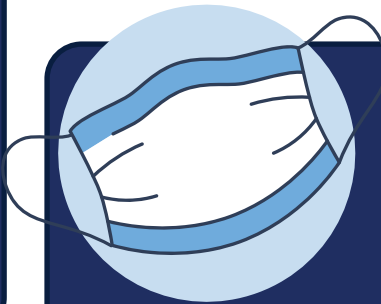
Ventilation

Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air than in spaces with less ventilation. Outdoor settings will be used where practicable.

Vaccination



All adults on school sites must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, including employees, contractors, volunteers and essential visitors. Students aged 12 or above are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. Parents and carers can book in a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine now.



Masks

Masks will be required for all staff and all students in Year 7 and above while they are indoors and outdoors on school sites unless eating or exercising. Masks are strongly recommended for primary students both indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising. Students should bring their own masks where possible, but schools will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are also required for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.



Hand hygiene & cleaning

Students will be reminded to wash their hands often. Sanitisers, soaps, paper towels and other essential items will be readily available for students. Enhanced cleaning will continue on our school site.



Visitors

Only essential visitors are allowed on school sites. All visitors are required to wear a mask and sign-in using the Service NSW QR code when entering the school.

Staged return timeline

The timeline for students to return to school is as follows:

Monday 11 October (Week 2)

Year 12 students and those completing HSC exams this year may return to school for up to 3 hours a day for revision and study in small study bubble groups of no more than five students.

Sunday 17 October

The boarding school will re-open for Year 12 boarders who are returning to their dormitories to stay until the end of HSC exams. Boarders who do not intend to return and are sitting their exams locally are welcome to arrange an alternative time to come back to pack up their rooms.

Monday 18 October (Week 3)

Year 12 students will be able to access their schools full-time to access their teachers to support their HSC preparation.

Sunday 24 October

Year 7 - 11 boarders will be able to return to the boarding school from 3pm.

Monday 25 October (Week 4)

All **Year 7 - 11 students** will return to face-to-face learning.

While we know there is excitement about the return to school, it's important that we follow this timeline to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite.

Students aged 12 and older eligible for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines

NSW Health are urging all students aged 12 and older to get vaccinated with either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible before returning to school.

Bookings can be made via the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#). Depending on location, bookings are available within the next few days.

For students and families who have questions or concerns related to getting vaccinated, refer to [NSW Health's Know the facts COVID-19 vaccination fact sheet \(PDF 307KB\)](#).

HSC preparation: study bubbles

In Week 2, Year 12 have the opportunity to come on site for up to 3 hours per day to engage in study bubbles. Mrs Davis has emailed information to Year 12 students and their families with a link to book their times so that COVID-safe guidelines can be observed.

2022 HSC

Year 11 students started their HSC courses this term. Students who have not yet completed their Subject Change Requests to enrol in Extension 2 subjects or withdraw from another subject must do so as soon as possible. Students will be required to attend all classes on their existing timetable until a new timetable reflecting any approved subject changes is published on Sentral.

Health Care Plan updates

In preparing for the return to school, please contact the school as soon as possible if your child's medical information has changed recently.

Good mental health with Headspace

The headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is offering a number of free mental health education sessions for parents and carers – see the attached flyer for further details.

Preparing mentally and emotionally for coming out of lockdown

Our experience with lockdown last year taught us that the transition out of lockdown can be challenging for some students. Helpful tips to support students prepare to return to school mentally and emotionally can be found [here](#).

As the countdown to returning to school earlier begins, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy weekend.

Kind regards,

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



upcoming sessions

Parents, Carers, and Community Members in South Western Sydney are invited to attend a free mental health education session in Term 4.



The sessions aim to:

- Strengthen your understanding of mental health and the warning signs for suicide and self-harm.
- Increase awareness of the impacts of COVID-19 on wellbeing.
- Strengthen your understanding and skills in how to have a conversation with your young person.
- Build awareness of local services and the various supports available.
- Strengthen relationships between local area mental health services, local schools, headspace centres and other community organisations.



Supporting young people and those impacted by suicide

Date: 19 October 2021

Time: 12 – 1:15pm AEDT

Location: Online webinar

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3EiSuc5>



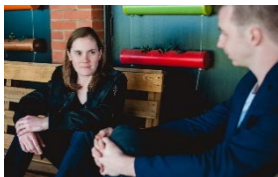
Communicating with young people

Date: 16 November 2021

Time: 12 – 1:15pm AEDT

Location: Online webinar

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3CeFodW>



Supporting young people impacted by COVID-19

Date: 7 December 2021

Time: 6 – 7:15pm AEDT

Location: Online webinar

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3Au8O7z>



For more information

Contact us at programsupport@headspace.org.au