

## Return to school - Term 1, 2022

Northern Territory schools will return on 31 January (urban) and 1 February (remote). This is the Territory plan to deliver education in Term 1, 2022.

### Our approach

Our plan aligns with the national approach to managing COVID-19 in schools and early childhood education and care (ECEC) services.

- 1) Schools and ECEC services are first to open and last to close. Face to face learning is a priority.
- 2) COVID-19 safe behaviours will be practised at all times.
- 3) No vulnerable child or child of an essential worker will be turned away.
- 4) Managing COVID-19 cases will be informed by public health advice.
- 5) Schools and ECEC services will be equipped with health advice
- 6) The health and wellbeing of our staff is our top priority.

FROM 31 JANUARY ► WEEK 1 ► WEEK 2 ► WEEK 3 ► WEEK 4 ► WEEK 5 ► Review and continue future planning

### Early childhood

Childcare programs and Out of School Hours Care will operate with COVID-safe measures in place.

### Primary schools

Face to face learning from preschool to Year 6 will continue with COVID safe measures in place.

Outside of School Hours Care will operate with COVID-safe measures in place.

### Middle and senior schools

Face-to-face learning will continue with COVID-safe measures in place.

Vocational placements will continue with COVID-safe measures in place.

### Vulnerable students

Individual learning plans for students with additional needs that have complex health needs will be updated if required by schools in consultation with parents/carers.

*We will continually monitor the situation and make changes as necessary. This may mean moving to online learning, if required, on a school/classroom basis.*

Regular school activities, like music and sport will continue in schools. Excursions and any learning activities outside of school grounds will be postponed for the first four weeks. This position will be reevaluated from Week 5.

## How we'll manage COVID-19 cases



### Testing for COVID-19

Increased protection for our remote communities - remote school staff will be provided 3 rapid antigen tests for the week that they return to community. The first test, will be on the day they fly or drive out to community, then test on Day 3 and Day 6. All must be negative. All staff can opt-in to 3 rapid antigen tests a week as an extra precaution. Teachers and students in middle or senior schools who are close contacts must be asymptomatic, and take a daily rapid antigen test for seven days to be able to return to school



### Close contact

Similar to other illnesses, if there is a case in your child's classroom, monitor your child closely for symptoms. If they're unwell, stay at home and get tested. Schools will communicate directly with families if there's a case at school.



### Managing cases

Public health will work closely with schools if there are increased cases in classrooms.



### Learning from home

If your child needs to isolate at home, their learning will be supported by a printed or online learning pack, provided by their school. Additional learning is also available online - <https://nt.gov.au/learning/learning-together>



### Workforce planning

Relief teachers, registered teachers who work in the corporate sector of the Education department are on standby to cover any absenteeism and keep schools open.

## COVID-19 safety measures in place

**Vaccination:** Children aged 5+ years are encouraged to be vaccinated – vaccination is not mandatory for a child to attend school. All Department of Education staff, including volunteers and contractors, are vaccinated.

**Face masks:** All adults will wear face masks, except when teaching. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 to wear masks when mandate in place. All other students highly recommended. All schools are well stocked.

**Ventilation:** Air conditioning systems will be set to maximise fresh air intake and circulation. 500 portable air purifiers in schools that don't have central air conditioning systems, prioritising remote schools.

**Outdoor learning:** Schools will take advantage of outdoor learning opportunities.

**Physical distancing:** All adults will keep a physical distance of 1.5 metres from each other.

**Hygiene practices:** Regular handwashing and sanitising will continue.

**Cleaning:** Frequent cleaning will continue, particularly on high-touch surfaces.

**Safe site management:** Non-essential visitors will be limited, and schools will regularly review their COVID safety plans. Visitors must use the Territory Check-in App.

**Groups:** Mixing of students and staff will be limited where possible.