



Nepean Creative & Performing Arts High School

Mr M Foord, Principal
115-119 Great Western Highway
Emu Plains, NSW, 2750
Locked Bag 6004, Emu Plains 2750
Phone: (02) 4728 7200
Fax: (02) 4735 8924
Email: nepean-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: <https://nepean-h.schools.nsw.gov.au>
ABN: 18 246 198 266

Information extracted from the Departments Covid-19 site.

Physical distancing in secondary school settings

To support secondary schools in managing the return of face-to-face learning in the classroom for students, we have developed a guide to social distancing based on the latest medical advice and research from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Guidelines.

This medical research has shown that the transmission of COVID-19 in a school environment occurs mostly from adult to adult, with children not appearing to contribute significantly to the spread of the disease.

This page provides guidance on the activities that can now be conducted and how the principles of physical distancing can be applied to these activities within school settings.

Each school should consider their individual context and available resources when reviewing the guide.

Please note

- All non-essential activities such as school excursions and work placements are not permitted.
- All non-essential visitors to school sites, including parents, volunteers and members of the community, are not permitted. This means all activities such as parent / teacher evenings or community use of facilities cannot go ahead.
- The Share Our Space initiative is not currently operational with schools required to restrict public access to school play areas and equipment.

Classrooms

- What you can do
- Arrange classroom desks and furniture in a normal arrangement for students. However, staff should make use of the room to provide space where possible to minimise interaction.
- Manage students entering class as normal with no requirement for students to line up outside of classrooms.

- Allow students to attend periods and travel between classes as per their timetable.
- Allow students to engage in social and classroom activities and receive the support they need from teachers for health care and learning support.
- Resume non-contact activities such as curriculum associated lessons such as musical tuition and extra-curricular school-based activities.
- Resume project and group work between students to meet curriculum requirements.
- Resume extra or extension classes that pertain to the senior curriculum.
- Allow senior common rooms, break out and study areas to be utilised by students as normal.
- Allow students to attend bathrooms or toilets as normal and during class time.
- Permit the use of mobile phones and devices such as iPads (according to school's Bring Your Own Device procedure). However, they should be encouraged to be used and maintained by an individual or owner at school. Where mobile phones and devices must be used, they should be cleaned regularly.
- All adults within the classroom must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other. This includes teachers, teachers' aides and other support staff.
- Before class commences, staff or students should wipe down any shared equipment required as part of the lesson. This requirement, where possible, can be embedded as a part of the student's learning around self-care for each lesson.
- Staff should discourage the sharing of resources and stationery during group work and provide students with individual packs of required resources.
- If shared equipment cannot be cleaned between uses, then it should not be used.
- Ensure group activities minimise contact between students where possible
- Ensure the implementation of environmental cleaning involving a range of strategies to reduce transmission, including the promotion of personal hygiene measures (frequent handwashing, reducing face-to-face contact, and cough etiquette) and wiping down of frequently used surfaces.

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Practical lessons

- What you can do
- Resume practical lessons within creative and performance arts (CAPA) and technology and applied studies (TAS) related subjects, but subject to strict hygiene arrangements.
- All adults within the classroom must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other. This includes teachers, teachers' aides and other support staff.
- Before class commences, staff or students should wipe down shared equipment required as part of the lesson.
- Computers should be cleaned by staff or students with disinfectant wipes through the day as an extra precaution if the items are being shared.

- Musical instruments should be cleaned with disinfectant wipes before and after use. Students should use their own mouthpiece where possible or thoroughly clean the items before use.
- During food preparation, staff and students must practice frequent hand washing and, if using gloves, they should be changed before and after preparing food. Ensure staff or students clean and sanitize counters and utensils, before and after use. Food and utensils must not be shared.
- Tools and equipment used in subjects such as industrial arts and visual arts to be cleaned by staff or students with disinfectant wipes before and after each use.
- If shared equipment cannot be cleaned between uses, then it should not be used.

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Recess and lunch

- What you can do
- Allow students to interact with each other with no need to maintain physical distancing. However, it is recommended that no large student gatherings occur.
- Allow students to use all playground equipment.
- Allow students to resume normal play in supervised areas with regular rostered supervision by staff in place.
- All adults must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other whilst on playground duty.
- Ensure the implementation of environmental cleaning measures including regular cleaning on playground equipment.
- Remind students to wash hands at the conclusion of break times or playground activities.

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Canteens

- What you can do
- Resume normal operations of canteens and food preparation facilities. This includes students returning to normal when purchasing food and drink from the canteen.
- All adults working in the canteen must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other while working, including adhering to strict hygiene amongst food preparation.
- It is encouraged hand sanitiser is made available at the payment counter for staff and students to use after handling money.
- Schools may consider markings around canteen areas to encourage physical distancing and minimise queuing.

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Uniform shops

- What you can do
- Allow students to enter school uniform shops in groups.
- All adults within the uniform shop must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other, but can assist students to purchase items.
- Ensure the implementation of environmental cleaning measures including the regular cleaning of frequently used surfaces and making hand sanitiser available.
- Schools may consider markings around uniform shop areas to encourage physical distancing and minimise queuing.
- It is encouraged hand sanitiser is made available at the payment counter for staff and students to use after handling money.

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Sports

- What you can do

Allow students to play non-contact sporting activities on school grounds such as:

- handball
- tennis
- cricket
- normal play during recess and lunch breaks.
- All physical contact sports and activities should not occur, this includes:
 - basketball
 - netball
 - soccer
 - rugby
 - hockey
 - tag and other contact-related games.
- Ensure that staff clean sporting equipment regularly. This may include periodically wiping shared equipment such as bats and racquets during structured sport activities as an extra precaution if the items are being shared.
- If equipment cannot be cleaned between uses, then it should not be used.
- Onsite shared facilities such as pools remain closed and should not be used.

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School assemblies

- What you can do
- Facilitate whole school assemblies where required. However, it is recommended that small year group gatherings are organised where practicable.
- All adults must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other.
- Stagger the entry and exit of students where possible to minimise congestion.

School dropoff and transport

- What you can do
- Allow students to enter and exit the school setting according to the school's regular routines.
- Allow transportation of students to continue according to the school's regular routines and in line with ASTP recommendations. There is no requirement for physical distancing between staff and students at these times.
- Remind students that they will need to maintain at least 1.5m social distancing whilst in the community and travelling to and from school.
- Inform parents that they are not to loiter or from gatherings at drop off or pick up locations.
- Schools may consider the use of appropriate markings at the pickup points to inform and encourage parents to use physical distancing.

Library

- What you can do
- Allow students to access the school library to use books and resources. However, staff should be encouraging lesson research via online sources to minimise the need to borrow books.
- Schools are advised to use electronic borrowing where available
- Conduct classes in the library, according to the school's regular routines and with an approach that maximises the available space to create optimal distancing.
- All adults must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other. This can be achieved by working in specific sections of the library independently.
- It is encouraged that hand sanitiser is made available for staff and students entering and exiting the library.
- Hands should be cleaned prior to and after handling books and other borrowed items. Gloves should be worn by staff when handling returned items.
- Returned books and other borrowed items must be kept separate from regular library items.
- Returned items that can be cleaned on return such as hardcover items (e.g. DVD cases and plastic-covered books) must be thoroughly wiped over with a cleaning product/wipe. These items must be left to dry and can then returned to the catalogue.
- Returned items that cannot be cleaned on return (e.g. non-plastic covered books) must be left for 24 hours prior to being returned to the catalogue system.
- Ensure the implementation of environmental cleaning measures including wiping down computer keyboards and mice at the beginning of each lesson.

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Staffrooms

- What you can do
- Utilise staffrooms. However, it is critical that in common staffrooms, the number of staff is minimised in order to maintain physical distancing. Consider roster systems for accessing the common staffrooms.
- Where staff are accessing faculty staffrooms, consider utilising empty classrooms where possible to minimise the number of staff in one location.
- All adults must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other.
- Minimise shared items where possible such as coffee mugs and cutlery.
- Wipe down all surfaces after use including kitchen worktops, tables and photocopiers.
- Clean high-touch areas such as backs/arms of chairs, phones, keyboards, desks and delivery points regularly with cleaning wipes.
- It is encouraged that hand sanitiser is made available for staff and students entering and exiting the staffroom.

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Sick bay

- What you can do
- Sick bay areas can continue to operate as per normal.
- If a student develops symptoms of illness and becomes unwell during the day, they should be taken to the sick bay area, or isolated in an appropriate area, while arrangements are made for them to be sent home or leave the school in the care of an appropriate person as soon as possible.
- Areas that are nominated for students as wait spaces and/or sick bay while parents/carers pick up are to be cleaned and serviced after each use by the First Aid Officer who administered first aid.
- It is encouraged that hand sanitiser is made available for staff and students entering and exiting the sick bay.
- When meeting with parents, maintain 1.5m physical distancing between adults and make available hand sanitiser for parents entering and exiting.
- Ensure all procedures of signing students out are maintained online.

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Essential meetings with parents and carers

- What you can do
- Continue meetings with parents and carers where essential – for example, when dealing with suspension, resolution meetings, personalised learning meetings and new enrolment meeting.
- All adults must maintain at least 1.5m physical distancing from each other.

- It is encouraged that hand sanitiser is made available for staff, students and parents entering and exiting the office.
- Ensure all procedures for parents, carers and visitors signing in and out of school are maintained online.
- Wipe down all surfaces after use including high-touch areas such as backs/arms of chairs, phones, keyboards and desks with cleaning wipes.

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Last updated: 08-May-2020