



ACT Public Schools in 2021 and COVID-19

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Please check www.education.act.gov.au for the latest information.

The ACT Education Directorate welcomes students and staff back to school in 2021. Schools remain safe and their operations are guided by the latest advice from the ACT Chief Health Officer and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

AT SCHOOL Students and staff will continue on-campus learning in 2021



Gathering size: Visitor numbers must be in line with current Public Health Directions. As of January 2021, this must not exceed 1000 people (not including students and staff).



Density requirements: For all activities associated with the normal operation of schools, such as assemblies, the one person per two square metres rule applies up to 1000 people using normal school check in procedures. For *additional school events* such as concerts and fetes, events should operate in accordance with the COVID Safe Event Protocol. Event and gatherings over 1000 people require an exemption. Events between 501 and 1000 people must notify ACT Health of their event and submit a COVID Safety Plan for review. Visitors must not exceed one person per two square metres in any indoor or outdoor space and the Check In CBR app should be used.



Physical distancing: Staff and visitors should keep 1.5 metres apart from each other where possible, unless they are from the same family group.



Checking in: Visitors to schools, including parents and carers, should check in using established school processes.



Health and hygiene: Staff and students should stay home if they are unwell and get tested. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of commonly touched or frequently shared surfaces will occur, as will routine cleaning. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day. Hand sanitiser has been provided to all schools.



Incursions, events, fundraising activities and volunteer activities: These can continue in schools if gathering, density, distancing and check-in requirements are met.



Hiring of school facilities: This can continue if gathering, density, distancing and check-in requirements are met.



School playgrounds and bubblers: Bubblers can be used and should be cleaned regularly. Playgrounds can also remain open for school use and to the community outside of school hours.

OFFSITE WITHIN ACT When leaving school sites to attend external venues, students, staff and other attendees should comply with any Public Health Directions in place and meet the following requirements:



Gathering size: Follow the requirements of the site or venue. Numbers must not exceed 1000 people (including students and staff).



Density requirements: Density should be calculated using one person for two square metres indoors and outdoors. Students and staff from the same school group may travel together in a bus without meeting this density requirement. The COVID Safe Event Protocol should be used for events held at external venues such as athletics or cross-country carnivals.



Physical distancing: Keep 1.5 metres apart from each other where possible, unless from the same school group. Staff should continue to maintain physical distancing requirements.



Checking in: Follow the requirements of the site or venue in relation to their check-in procedures.



Excursions, camps, and offsite carnivals: These can go ahead within the ACT, provided the gathering, density, physical distancing and check-in requirements are met. School events held at external venues should be in accordance with the COVID Safe Event Protocol.

INTERSTATE



Camps and excursions: International travel is prohibited and interstate travel to identified COVID-19 Affected Areas is prohibited. Schools should notify School Operations of any proposed interstate travel, stay up to date with the latest travel advice, and ensure bookings are refundable.