



## Specific COVID-safe Protocol for BHS school operations

We have worked closely with NSW Health to develop a framework for COVID-19 response settings for Blakehurst High School. This page contains an overview of this framework.

**Note: this is a living document and will be updated as required.**

**Target Audience:** STAFF (Both Teaching and Non-Teaching staff), PARENTS, STUDENTS, contractors, and occasional DoE visitor. We are currently a Level 3 plus school.

### What does it mean to be a Level 3 plus school?

It applies to areas where stay-at-home rules had been in place for an extended period of time (from August 2021 or earlier) before being lifted from 11 October. This is a staged return for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling and limited on-site activities and is subject to NSW Health guidance. We will need to adhere to the following COVID-safe protocols; face-to-face learning allowed for certain cohorts; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors

### Guidance on mask wearing

**Staff:** while on school site, both indoors and outdoors, masks or face coverings are required for **all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above** (unless exercising or eating). To wear mask covering correctly, it **must cover your nose and mouth**. If you have a medical condition that prevents you wearing your mask you will need to communicate this with Ms Kapsimalis with supporting evidence.

**Students: refusing to wear a mask or to wear mask correctly (ie covering nose and mouth), and refusing to follow teacher direction will result in students being asked to go home.** The school has the right to direct students to go home if they are not following COVID Safety and DoE directions that compromise the safety of all students and staff on site.

### Minimising the risk of transmission

- Everyone should wash their hands or use hand sanitiser on regular occasions.
- Maintain good personal hygiene practices, including covering your cough or sneeze through coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue, disposing of tissues in nearest bin
- Avoid shaking hands, hugging or kissing
- *Hygiene supplies will be available in every learning environment*
- Students will be required to wipe down their table and chair after the timetabled lesson
- Students are **NOT** to mingle in large groups or in confined spaces, in playgrounds, toilets and other spaces on site. **Students MUST follow teacher directions at all times.**

### *Blakehurst High School- Specific Covid-Safe Protocol for daily operations*

- Everybody is responsible to **ensure windows and doors are fully open for ventilation and air circulation with buildings**. Fans and air-con to be on wherever it is available to ensure ventilation occurs as much as possible.

## Requirements to be followed: SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

- **Students and staff NOT to attend school if they have symptoms**

Most common symptoms:

- fever
- cough
- tiredness
- loss of taste or smell

Less common symptoms:

- sore throat
- headache
- aches and pains
- diarrhoea
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes
- red or irritated eyes

Serious symptoms:

- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- loss of speech or mobility, or confusion
- chest pain

- If a student or family member, or staff member tests positive they **MUST** notify the School Principal- Mrs Kapsimalis immediately. The Student or Staff member may not return to school unless they are cleared by NSW Health and evidence of this is provided to the School Principal.
- **Students are not required to have a COVID test prior to returning to school.**
- **Proof of negative COVID test is only required for a student returning to school if they or a family member have had covid and have been cleared by NSW Health.**
- **Students returning to school are not required to provide proof of vaccination.**
- QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors.
- Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines.
- Additional cleaning measures are being implemented through-out the day with additional cleaners on site.
- Non-essential visitors not allowed on-site (including parents and carers).
- Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home.
- Reduced playground mingling of students wherever possible. Students **MUST** remain in their designated year group areas.
- Students **MUST** social distance when lining up at the canteen.
- Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted.
- HSC Exams as per Health approved COVID-safe HSC guide.
- Staff interactions limited with physical distancing.
- No assemblies.
- No excursions.

### *Blakehurst High School- Specific Covid-Safe Protocol for daily operations*

- No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services).
- No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes).
- No Community Language School on site.
- Only vaccinated staff on site.
- School starting and finishing times as per normal timetable.
- Year 11 and Year 12 MUST leave the school premises immediately at the end of their last timetabled period of the day.
- Minimised interactions and contact within student cohorts.
- Library, Hall, and Gym will be used by only 1 cohort at a time
- No water bubblers will be accessible until further notice.
- Students and staff to supply their own bottled water for drinking. Refilling will only be accessed under strict guidelines. Refiling stations are available throughout the school site and they are in the following areas: outside the PDHPE staffroom, entry of Buildings A and C
- Staff **MUST** use staff common room toilets in Admin Block in lieu of library toilets – which will be used by senior students ONLY
- Students are not permitted to bring basketballs, footballs, handballs and any other type of sporting equipment to school.
- Students are not to play any sort of physical games during their break times.
- Students will ONLY be participating in physical activity – during PDHPE practical – as per guidelines
- Student MUST wear masks whilst commuting on public transport to and from school
- Health guidelines will be followed with regards to ALL practical lessons.

## **Break time Information**

- Playground areas will be zoned into different year groups. Refer to next page for details (use school map)

## **Wet Weather (TBA)**

- **In wet weather conditions or when weather is forecasted, we would like encourage parents to keep their children at home. Due to restricted covered sheltered areas and narrow corridors we will not be able to ensure adequate social distancing. Lessons will be placed on line.**

## **Toilet Access:**

Boys: Years 7, 8 & 9 (Use toilet in C Block)

Boys: Years 10 (Use toilet in Building A ground floor (entrance to science/library block)

Girls: Years 7, 8 & 9 (Use Girls Toilet next to Canteen)

Girls: Years 10 (Use toilet in Building A ground floor (entrance to science/library block)

Boys & Girls 11 (Use toilets in hall and near library during study breaks)

Boys & Girls 12 (Use toilets outside the library)

*Blakehurst High School- Specific Covid-Safe Protocol for daily operations*