



RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

COVID-19 Health Risk Management Plan

This form may help parents and carers to plan with schools how to manage COVID-19 health risks for students with disability returning to school.

As you develop a plan you might want to:
seek medical advice from the student's doctor
consider if a three-way conversation with your student's doctor and school might be helpful.

You may also wish to read:

- [COVID-19 information for schools and students](#)
- [COVID-19 support for students with disability](#)
- [COVID-19 health advice for people with disability.](#)

This plan is optional. It should complement any other individual health, learning and/or disability plans the student already has. It does not replace other plans.

Student's name		Date of plan	
Year, grade or class		Date for review	
School			
Regular teachers / support staff			

COVID-19 RISK FACTORS

The number of cases of COVID-19 in your community is the most important determinant of risk. If there are few or no cases, there will be little or no risk of getting the virus.

People at **greater risk of more serious illness** due to COVID-19 include:

- **people with certain chronic health conditions and/or compromised immune systems**
- some **people with disability**.

The factors that place the student at greater risk of serious illness due to COVID-19 are:

e.g. suppressed immune system due to Down syndrome, leukaemia, or undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy; taking immuno suppressive medication.

Using preventive measures, like **physical distancing** and **good hygiene**, reduces the risk of getting COVID-19.

The factors that place the student at greater risk of acquiring and/or transmitting COVID19 are:

e.g. limited ability to understand and always practise physical distancing and good hygiene; close physical contact required for personal care (e.g. assistance required with toileting); regularly engaging in oral sensory seeking or other behaviours (e.g. chewing objects, licking, biting).

Based on these factors and the COVID-19 Risk Matrix (below), the student's COVID-19 risk is:

LOW MEDIUM HIGH

COVID-19 Risk Matrix		Impact of exposure: Student's risk of serious illness if infected with COVID-19		
		Low	Medium	High
Likelihood of exposure: Student's ability to maintain good hand hygiene and keep 1.5m away from others	The student is able to do these things	low risk	low risk	med risk
	The student has some ability to do these things	low risk	med risk	high risk
	The student has limited ability to do these things	med risk	high risk	high risk

COVID-19 RISK MITIGATION PLAN

Parents/carers and schools should consider if changes are required to reduce the student's COVID-19 risk at school. Also consider:

- [government health advice](#) to reduce the potential risk of COVID-19 in school
- [COVID-19 National Principles for School Education](#)
- the [Disability Standards for Education](#).

Below is a list of adjustments for the student's return that you may wish to discuss with your school. You may like to ask for further information on what adjustments your school has already made. Adjustments may need to be modified to suit the student's needs and school or class circumstances.

Goal	Action	Who will do this
Reduce the risk of the student getting COVID-19 from other students, staff and the school environment	Encourage all students and staff to stay home if unwell. If someone has symptoms, send them home and encourage them to be tested for COVID-19.	<i>e.g. family, teachers, support staff.</i>
	Ask the teacher / support staff to supervise and assist the student to follow good hygiene. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular hand washing or hand sanitiser use. Do this when students arrive, before and after eating, after breaks and after toileting • cough etiquette. 	
	Encourage and supervise all students to follow good hygiene. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular hand washing or hand sanitiser. Do this when students arrive, before and after eating, after breaks and after toileting • cough etiquette. 	
	Maintain smaller class sizes where possible.	

Goal	Action	Who will do this
Reduce the risk of the student getting COVID-19 from other students, staff and the school environment	Arrange classroom furniture to leave as much space as possible between students.	
	Encourage all students and staff to stay 1.5m apart where possible.	
	Adapt activities to avoid mixing classes and year levels. For example, reduce use of common areas and after-school activities.	
	Stagger start, finish and break times where possible (for classes or for the individual student if necessary). This will reduce times when groups of students from different grades are near each other.	
	Review any other school learning, health or disability plans the student has. Include any COVID-19 -related changes.	
	Minimise the number of support staff in contact with the student. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> try to always have the same support staff with the student try to avoid support staff moving between classes and students. 	
	Increase cleaning. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects in the student's classroom.	
	Encourage greetings and interactions that don't involve physical contact.	
	Conduct lessons outdoors or in areas with good ventilation where possible.	

Goal	Action	Who will do this
Reduce the risk of the student getting COVID-19 from other students, staff and the school environment	Prevent public access to playgrounds and high touch play equipment.	
Reduce the risk of the student passing on COVID-19 to other students and staff	Support staff to use appropriate PPE when providing close personal care.	
	Ensure medically vulnerable staff do not provide support for the student which involves close personal contact.	
	Use the disabled toilet for toileting. Restrict access to people with disability who require accessible toilets.	
Early detection of potential COVID-19 symptoms in the student	If the student has cold or flu-like symptoms, report this to the teacher, staff and family members. The student should not attend school or should leave to go home.	
	Encourage the student to seek, or help to arrange, a COVID-19 test, following state or territory guidelines.	

Goal	Action	Who will do this
Early notification and withdrawal from school if COVID-19 case is suspected or confirmed in the school community	If a member of the school community is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, notify the student's parents/ carers as soon as possible.	
	If a member of the school community is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, consider withdrawing the student (and any siblings) from school.	
Regular review of COVID-19 health risk management plan	Review this risk management plan two weeks after you start using it. Check it is reasonable, appropriate and effective.	
	Review this risk management plan either monthly, or more frequently if the school's COVID-19 policies change.	

MORE INFORMATION:

Additional things to consider in this plan may include:

- transport to and from school
- siblings at the same school
- other medically vulnerable classmates or students with disability, etc.