



Dear Parent / Carer

Prep and Year 1 Students returning to school Monday 11th May.

On Monday, the state government announced its intention to commence a staggered return to school attendance for Prep and Year 1, students, commencing next week.

Chief Health Officer Advice

The Chief Health Officer has advised that the largest risk factor in relation to the transmission of COVID-19 in schools is adult to adult transmission. As more has become known about COVID-19, there is limited evidence to suggest that children spread the virus. It is more likely that transmission will occur adult to adult. Consequently, while there are no guarantees that COVID-19 will not occur in a school, the CHO (chief Health Officer) has confirmed that the health advice is that it is safe for students to return to school and safe for teachers (if they do not fall into the vulnerable worker category) to work with children in schools, provided that certain risk mitigation strategies are put in place.

Based on medical and other information provided, the educational benefits of resuming school-based learning outweigh the very low risk, in a properly managed workplace, of COVID-19 transmission. This is based on medical examinations of the spread of the virus in practice in Australia. This assessment will remain under constant review as circumstances change.

Strategies to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection in schools

In response to the advice from the CHO, (Chief Health Officer) the following strategies will be implemented.

- **Communicating with parents about school operations and expectations**

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The only students who can attend Toogoolawah State School from 11 May are those in Prep and Year 1, children of essential workers and vulnerable students. Students in year's 2 - 6 who attend school will be supervised while undertaking the same learning@home activities of their classmates.

Additionally, where parents choose to keep Prep, Year 1 children at home even though they are not medically vulnerable or unwell, the school is not required to provide at home materials.

- **Hygiene measures**

There will be regular handwashing and sanitising in every classroom, students will be taught the correct procedures, we will ensure adequate cleaning supplies are available, with promotional materials about hygiene and social distancing. We are already increasing cleaning of staff rooms, classrooms, play equipment and high frequency touch points.

- **Social distancing**

Social distancing is required for adults. This means that the requirement for a 1.5m distance between adults must be followed and that social distancing measures apply to staff rooms, classrooms and other shared spaces. Access to the school site by other adults, including parents and carers, should be limited, and parents and caregivers are not to congregate at access points in the school grounds.

To assist with this the following procedure for drop off and pick up of students will occur as of Monday, May 11th.

- **Prep, Year 1 and students of essential workers will need to be dropped off and picked up at the Day Care / Police side of Gardner Street.**
- **Students can be escorted to the gates where they will be greeted by teaching staff and then guided to the undercover area.**
- **This protocol from Health officials is designed to eliminate adult gatherings in the school grounds.**

When the students are in class learning Teachers will follow the following Health Guidelines.

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Toogoolawah State School

Gardner Street, Toogoolawah QLD 4313

Telephone: (07) 5423 4111

Facsimile: (07) 5423 4100

Email: admin@toogoolawahss.eq.edu.au

- **No holding of hands**
- **No sharing of personal resources**
- **Students will wash hands before and after toileting and eating.**
- **If students need to cough or sneeze they are to use tissues that are immediately disposed of or cough and sneeze into the inside of their elbow.**
- **No spraying of mist from smiggle water bottles or water bottles in general.**

It would be much appreciated if you could reinforce these messages at home before students arrive and Teachers will teach these protocols to students as a matter of urgency.

These rules will remain in place and be an expectation for all students when the **remainder** of our cohorts return on Monday the 25th May.

If you are a parent visitor to class and normally assist with reading we will need to postpone these activities until given the all clear by the Health Department to resume.

Office Protocols.

If as a Parent you need to visit the office we will also need to comply with Health Department regulations.

- This will mean only one person at a time in the office being served.
- We have placed crosses on the ground to encourage social distancing at the entrance to the office and along the pathway outside.
- Hand Sanitiser will be available for your use on the office counter.
- These protocols follow similar expectations at other venues. If you have been to a Bunnings or IGA at Toogoolawah they have very similar processes in place for your and staff Health and safety.
- **Health and wellbeing**

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Students and staff who are unwell are to stay away from school. The CHO (Chief Health Officer) has directed that unwell students are to be sent home and remain at home until they are well. This advice includes minor symptoms such as “the sniffles”.

I appreciate your understanding of these protocols but feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss your situation.

Sincerely

Garry Hutchinson

Principal

Toogoolawah State School

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