

Dear parent and carers,

I am writing with additional information about the return of students to our school campus. First, a reminder about the return dates for students.

Commencing 31 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool and kindergarten • Years 7 and 11 • New student orientations • Out of school hours care (OSHC)
Commencing 1 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 1 - 6 • Years 8 – 10 • Year 12

Drawing on national and local health advice, we have developed a return to school plan which has three key priorities:

- the health and safety of staff and young people
- the mental and emotional well-being of students and staff, and
- ensuring continuity of learning.

Below is an outline of [ACT Health Guidelines](#) that schools are required to implement to ensure effective COVID-19 measures are in place.

Student illness	Anyone who is unwell, symptomatic or who are household close contacts must not be at school or preschool. This applies to staff and students. If they attend when unwell, they will be sent home.
Masks	Staff, visitors and students* in years 7-12 must wear a face mask on campus. Students in years 3-6 are encouraged to wear a mask if they are comfortable doing so. Students in Preschool to year 2 are not required to wear a mask. Masks may not be suitable for students with a disability or medical condition and schools will make allowances for those students not to wear masks. <i>* Masks will be available at school for those who require them. Disposable masks need to be changed every four hours.</i>
Physical Distancing and cohorting of staff and students	Physical distancing between children and young people is not always possible, particularly in single classrooms and school environments. It is however important for limiting the transmission of COVID-19. To support cohorting of staff and students, we may adjust learning programs, stagger starts, breaktimes, and timetables as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.
Hand hygiene and COVID smart behaviours	Schools will maintain and promote hand and respiratory hygiene practices. Students will need to wash hands and use hand sanitisers throughout the day. Students will not be allowed to share food or drink.

Environmental cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch point services, frequently used objects, common areas, toilets and play equipment.
Ventilation	All schools are following an Indoor Air Quality Plan. Improved ventilation and increased outdoor learning will be implemented where appropriate. Ventilation systems have been adjusted to increase fresh air circulation and plans will be updated to reflect improvements made since 2021.
Vaccination	The ACT has one of the highest vaccination rates of any city in the world and this is reflected in our teaching workforce. COVID-19 vaccinations are also mandated for staff working across early childhood education and care services, preschools, primary schools, Out of School Hours Care, specialist school settings and P-10 schools, or schools that share campus space with students in year 6 or below. These requirements are in place until the conclusion of the public health emergency.
Visitors and use of Check in CBR app	All students aged 16 and above, staff and visitors must check in using the 'Check in CBR' app. Parents and carers are allowed on school grounds for scheduled appointments only. Special arrangements will be made for children starting at a new school or early childhood service in 2022, or children with special needs who require transition visits prior to the commencement of the new school year.
Wellbeing supports	<p>Wellbeing and learning supports, such as face to face appointments with the school psychologist or access to a Learning Support Assistant, will recommence with the return to school. They can be accessed through the school's established referral process. If the school psychology position is temporarily vacant, you can book an appointment for your child with our Central Telehealth team by filling a booking request form or emailing Telehealth@ed.act.edu.au. Central Telehealth Service is available between 9:30 am – 4:30 pm during weekdays.</p> <p>For parents and carers of students with a medical vulnerability: If you wish the school to make reasonable adjustments for the safe return of your child, you must consult a GP and provide medical advice to that effect. Where adjustments can't be made, the school will support your child to learn from home.</p>
Managing COVID-19 in schools	<p>We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus. A student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated with suitable supervision, and parents will be required to collect their child. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask. Symptomatic staff and visitors will be advised to travel directly home.</p> <p>If a staff member, child, young person or visitor is diagnosed with COVID-19 and has attended a school site during their infectious period, they are required to advise their school.</p> <p>Where a COVID-19 case in a school leads to students and staff being assessed as at risk of exposure, those impacted will be informed by the school about what they are required to do in line with ACT Health requirements. If the exposure is considered low risk, students and staff will continue to be able to attend school while closely monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Risk assessments are based off the ACT Health Guidelines for Schools.</p>
COVID-19 screening	<p>Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get a PCR or Rapid Antigen Test immediately.</p> <p>Free Rapid Antigen Tests will be provided to all staff and students in ACT schools for the first four weeks of term 1. Rapid Antigen Testing will be voluntary for</p>

	<p>staff and students. Students and staff will do the tests at home and are required to report any positive test results to their school and to ACT Health.</p> <p>Rapid Antigen Testing kits will be available to collect from school during the first week of term. More information on the collection arrangements for our school will be provided in the coming days.</p>
--	---

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

Student Drop off and pick up	<p>Due to limitations on indoor gatherings, the beginning of day 1, 2022 will look slightly different for our incoming Year 7 students.</p> <p>Day 1 – Year 7 & New Students Year 7 students should make their way to the outdoor courts at the rear of the school where they will be welcomed by UCHSK teachers.</p> <p>Year 7 parents, please keep an eye out for another email identifying your child's Pastoral Care teacher, who they will line up with on the courts, first thing Monday morning.</p> <p>New year 8, 9 & 10 students will be asked to meet at the front of the school where they will be met by Year Coordinators.</p> <p>Day 2 – All students – Map provided Year 7 & 8 students will meet behind the gym and, when invited, will enter the school through the glass doors at the back of the gym.</p> <p>Year 9 & 10 students will meet outside the Canteen and, when invited, will enter the school through either the Maths or Canteen doors.</p> <p>All students are required to remain outside, at the rear of the building before school. At 8:55am students will be invited into the building through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors at the rear of Maths and the Canteen (9/10) • Glass doors at the back of the gym (7/8)
Hygiene routines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers will have a supply of hand sanitiser for use in their classes. • Additional sanitiser will be available in several high traffic locations around the school. • Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly with soap and water. • Wipes will be provided for regular cleaning of practical equipment, as directed by class teachers.
Teaching and learning	<p>Timetable (attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UCHSK school timetable for 2022, will be a modified version of the 2021 return to school timetable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Each day will include ten minutes of Pastoral Care, 3 x 90-minute lessons and 2 breaks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thursdays are slightly different to other days. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long PC ▪ Achieve ▪ Due to limitations on large indoor gatherings Assemblies will not proceed until further notice. Timetable variations will be provided to students in due course. <p>Learning Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be delivered face to face, on site at UCHSK in timetabled classes. • All resources will be added to individual class Google Classrooms. • Those students unable to attend on site will be expected to complete learning activities on the Google Classroom. • Teachers will be available, through the Google Classrooms or via email, to respond to questions and provide support to students learning from home. These responses will be provided in a timely manner. <p>Extra-Curricular Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All extracurricular programs will continue on site, with COVID safety plans in place. • All extracurricular programs must ensure participants are only drawn from either the 7/8 or 9/10 cohort.
Break times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will be outside at break times. • A small number of students will have access to the library during break times, where their behaviour plans, or wellbeing require it. • The playground will be divided into two separate areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farm End - Northern end of oval, grassed bank, rear of Inclusive Education & Maths, courtyard area immediately outside the canteen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 9/10 @ Recess, 7/8 @ Lunch 2. Courts End - Southern end of oval, basketball courts, handball courts and associated seating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7/8 @ Recess, 9/10 @ Lunch • Students to enter canteen for food collection, water or toilet breaks only. • Large groups will not be permitted in the building. • Wet weather: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 10 – English / SOSE Open Area ▪ Year 9 – Library ▪ Year 8 – Drama Suite ▪ Year 7 – Gym
School canteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The canteen will be available for 'click and collect' orders or counter service. • Click & collect orders can be made through this link to the UCHSK website. • Counter service will be staggered for cohorts during recess and lunch.
Events and Excursions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential excursions and activities involving individual classes or year groups are allowed, where these form a core component of the curriculum. A COVID-safe plan will be developed ahead of any excursion. • Term 1 carnivals and camps have been postponed at this time.

We will continue to review and adjust these measures based on the most up to date advice from ACT Health.

During this time, we may experience impacts on our workforce due to the requirements of staff to isolate under ACT Health directions. We will work closely with the Education Directorate to make appropriate adjustments to ensure student and staff safety. This may include using casual relief staff, combining of classes, limiting or cancelling non-essential activities, switching to the provision of supervision only or possibly temporary transition to remote learning.

Remember, all adults and children aged 5 years and above are eligible for vaccination. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated, we encourage you to book them in by calling the COVID-19 vaccination line on 5124 7700 daily between 7am-7pm. Bookings can also be made with some [GP clinics and pharmacies](#).

For more information about the return to schools, I'd recommend visiting [the Education Directorate's website](#).

You can keep up to date with the latest health information, advice and resources on the [ACT's COVID-19 website](#).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing all our students back at school.

My regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Mowbray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Mowbray

Principal