



**COVID-SMART MEASURES  
STUDENTS & FAMILIES Q&A  
2022**

## How will the updated Covid-safe school settings affect me?

Toronto High School is continuing to restrict activities to established year levels and cohorts. Staff and students at school are expected to continue good hygiene and physical distancing practices alongside effective ventilation in learning and office spaces.



### i. Face Masks

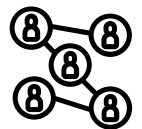
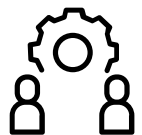
- Surgical masks must be worn indoors by all students and staff while at school (unless eating, drinking or exercising). **No cloth or vented masks should be worn.**
- If required, surgical masks will be available to students. Just ask your teacher or at the Student Services counter in A-block.
- It is still mandatory for all staff and students to carry a mask with them at all times.
- Students who have a medical exemption or believe they have a valid reason to not wear a face mask must discuss this with the Principal or Deputy Principal ASAP. Students with a mask exemption will be provided with a Mask Exemption Pass.



### ii. Limiting Student Interactions

Toronto High School, where practical, will continue to restrict activities to established student year levels:

- Roll Call will be back outside each morning in the COLA, in year group roll call lines, with social distancing between each year group. This includes Tuesday, with new Tuesday bell times now including roll call under the COLA.
- Bell times will revert to original bell times (see Appendix).
- Tuesday Afternoon Sport for Years 9 and Years 10 will occur in PDHPE classes, as they did at the end of 2021. Year 7 and 8 Sport will continue in PDHPE classes as integrated Sport.
- School areas and toilet areas will be allocated to each year level for arrival and break times (refer to Appendix 2).
- The canteen will continue to prioritise pre-orders.
- The library space will continue to work on a roster system, with each year level allocated a day where the library can be accessed during break times (refer to Appendix).
- Students catching afternoon buses will still meet under the COLA in Roll Call groups and wait for Senior Executive directions.
- Student groups (such as Clontarf, Wellbeing groups, SRC and cultural groups) will be operating on a roster system based on year levels until further notice.
- Breakfast and lunch club are still cancelled until further notice.
- Students will be required to practise physical distancing of 1.5m wherever practical.
- All possible school entrances and exits will be open to support the arrival and departure of students. The double gates on Field Avenue will be open each morning for arrivals.
- Students are encouraged to use the closest possible entry and exits into and out of buildings.
- At the completion of the day, students not catching buses must leave the school grounds immediately.



## iii. Drop Offs and Parent/Carer Visits to School

- No parents or carers will be allowed on school site for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 with the exception of two parents or carers accompanying their child to their first day of Year 7 or students starting their first day at THS in any other year group.
- No visitors are allowed on school site for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 except for fully vaccinated:
  - Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops or canteens
  - Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery
  - Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students.



## v. Canteen Procedures

- The canteen will continue to accept pre-orders only. All staff and student orders are to be placed before school, either online or in person before 8:15am.
- The canteen can be accessed during recess and lunch for order collection. There will be signs to direct students to year level lines and markers on the ground to ensure physical distancing.



## vi. Bubblers

Bubblers will be turned on. However, it is recommended that students fill their drink bottles from the taps during break times.



## vii. Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will only operate online or with pre-ordering arrangements in place. Orders will be bundled and available for pick up outside of school hours by prior arrangement with uniform shop staff.

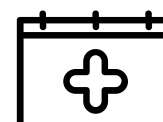
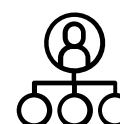


## What health precautions will be taken into consideration?

The wellbeing and safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. Toronto High School will be following the guidelines provided by the department and NSW Health as outlined in this document.



- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) will be provided to all staff and students prior to the start of Term 1, 2022.
- All staff and students are asked to take a rapid antigen test and get a negative result before attending school at the start of term 1.
- For the first 4 weeks of 2022, students and staff should take a rapid antigen test twice a week on the morning before attending school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Test kits will continue to be supplied by schools.
- Students are expected to attend school unless they are unwell or have even the mildest symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms must be sent home and not return to school **until they are symptom free and test negative** on either a PCR test or RAT.



In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.



Cleaning and hygiene supplies will continue to be available in all classrooms and administration areas. Students and staff will be required to sanitise their learning space prior to and following the learning sessions.



## COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

If there is a positive case in your class, year or other grouping, you can continue to attend school in line with NSW Health advice.

- Staff and students who get a positive rapid antigen test result must register it on [service.nsw.gov.au](https://service.nsw.gov.au) or the Service NSW app as soon as possible.
- Staff and students who receive a positive rapid antigen or PCR test result must tell their school as soon as possible, and follow NSW Health advice.
- THS will regularly communicate to parents about the presence and impact of COVID-19 in our community. Parents should expect to be provided with details of any impacted year groups or cohorts.



## What do I need to bring?

Students will need to bring the usual equipment for all subjects they are attending. Students will also need to bring and wear a facemask (unless an exemption applies) and a water bottle that can be filled at the bubblers, as the bubblers will not be available for direct use. It is recommended that students pack a spare mask.



## Are buses running?

Yes, buses are running. Students can continue to travel to and from school as normal. Please remember that masks are mandatory on public transport and in public transport waiting areas such as a bus stop or train station, for students 12 years and above.



Of an afternoon, students who catch a bus home will be lining up in the year group roll call lines rather than bus lines.

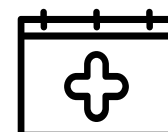
## Should I wear my uniform?

Yes. Full school uniform is required including appropriate requirements for practical subjects.



## What should I do if I am unwell?

If you are unwell, stay home. If you come to school and are unwell, you will be isolated and your parents, carers or emergency contacts will be called to collect you. Students, parents/carers and staff must stay away from school when experiencing even the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms and seek testing. Unwell students and staff must not return to school until they receive a **negative PCR/RAT result and are symptom free.**



## Do not attend school if:

- You have even mild flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore/scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste or sense of smell).



- You are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test: PCR or RAT.
- You are a household contact of someone testing positive to COVID-19.
- You have been instructed by NSW Health to self-isolate.

### What happens if my family decide it is best for me to stay home?

All students are expected to attend and participate in regular timetabled lessons, in-person. If a student is unable to return to school due to an underlying health condition, placing them or a household member at greater risk from the impact of COVID-19:

- Families must provide medical documentation which may include certificates from medical specialists.
- If the medical certificate is provided and accepted by the Principal, THS will continue to provide learning from home materials.
- Students will be expected to submit one piece of work, per class per week to meet participation requirements.



### When will school return to normal?

We're not sure how long this phase will continue, but we will let you know as soon as we can!

The commencement of the 2022 school year will have some ongoing challenges. We are expecting that there will be disruption to the operational status of the school over Term 1.

The main challenge that all schools are facing in remaining open is the availability of staff.

We are expecting that students will be at times in minimal supervision arrangements. Minimal supervision arrangements occur when there are not enough casual teachers to cover absent teaching staff. When there are classes without a teacher, these classes will be combined, placed on the quad and supervised. There will be no teaching occurring, but the school will remain open.

There will be a tipping point when it may become unviable and unsafe to keep the school open due to a lack of staff. If this occurs, information will be provided via the THS Facebook page and an email will be sent to all parents (please ensure your latest email address is with our office).

If this happens, Learning from Home will occur, either through your child's teacher via CANVAS (our Online Learning Management System) or if your child's teacher is unavailable, via the NSW Department of Education Learning from Home Resource Hub. Information and guidance will be provided if this situation occurs.

For students who are sick and/or have a positive RAT or PCR test and/or have flu-like symptoms and are unable to attend school; while the school is open, they will be able to access their classes via CANVAS (however the teacher will not be available online as they are teaching face to face) or they will be able to access the NSW DoE Learning from Home Resource hub. However, in the first instance, we would like them to rest and recover.

## APPENDIX

## Bell Times

Roll Call is in the Quad on each morning at 8.15am.

This is subject to change by the Senior Executive for any emerging / urgent issues.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday		
<b>Period 0 (Seniors Only)</b>	7.15am	8.15am
<b>Roll Call</b>	8.15am	8.30am
<b>Period 1</b>	8.30am	9.30am
<b>Period 2</b>	9.30am	10.30am
<b>Recess</b>	10.30am	10.45am
<b>Period 3</b>	10.45am	11.45am
<b>Period 4</b>	11.45am	12.45am
<b>Lunch 1</b>	12.45am	1.02pm
<b>Lunch 2</b>	1.02pm	1.20pm
<b>Period 5</b>	1.20pm	2.20pm
<b>Period 6 (Seniors Only)</b>	2.20pm	3.20pm

Tuesday		
<b>Period 0 (Seniors Only)</b>	7.15am	8.15am
<b>Roll Call</b>	8.15am	8.25am
<b>Period 1</b>	8.25am	9.22am
<b>Period 2</b>	9.22am	10.19am
<b>Recess</b>	10.19am	10.34am
<b>Period 3</b>	10.34am	11.31am
<b>Lunch 1</b>	11.31am	11.48am
<b>Lunch 2</b>	11.48am	12.06pm
<b>Period 4/Sport</b>	12.06pm	1.03pm
<b>Period 5/Sport</b>	1.03pm	2.00pm
<b>Staff/Faculty Meeting</b>	2.10pm	3.10pm

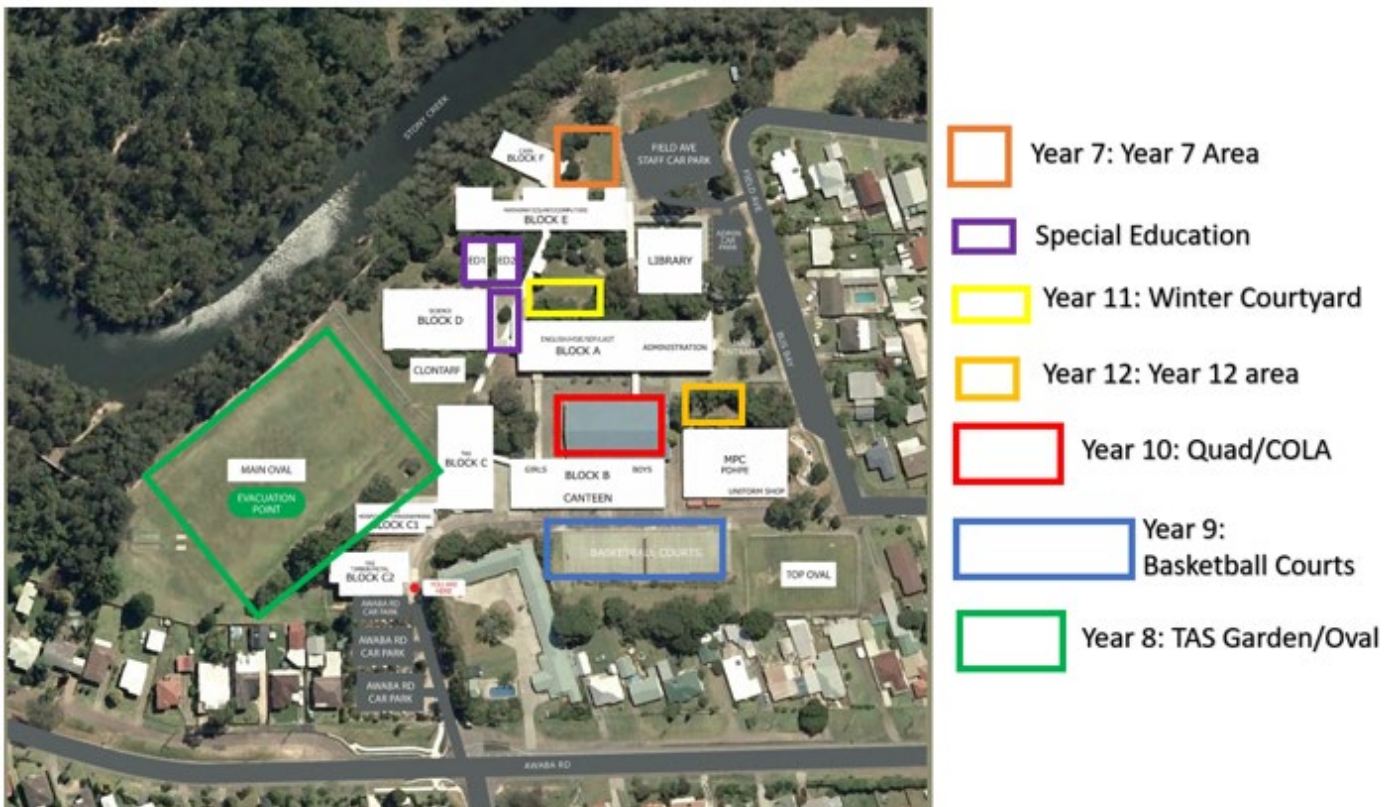
Assembly Day		
<b>Period 0 (Seniors Only)</b>	7.15am	8.15am
<b>Roll Call</b>	8.15am	8.30am
<b>Period 1</b>	8.30am	9.18am
<b>Period 2</b>	9.18am	10.06am
<b>Recess</b>	10.06am	10.21am
<b>Period 3</b>	10.21am	11.09am
<b>Period 4</b>	11.09am	11.57am
<b>Assembly</b>	11.57am	12.57pm
<b>Lunch 1</b>	12.57pm	1.15pm
<b>Lunch 2</b>	1.15pm	1.32pm
<b>Period 5</b>	1.32pm	2.20pm
<b>Period 6 (Seniors Only)</b>	2.20pm	3.20pm

**2. Break Times**

Each year level will be required to remain in a designated area within the school before school, recess and lunch (see map below). Students may be out of the area to pick up orders from the canteen, access bathroom areas, and/or fulfil requests to meet with staff. Physical distancing of 1.5m should be maintained, wherever possible.

YEAR LEVEL	ARRIVAL AND BREAKS AREA	WET WEATHER AREA	TOILETS	LIBRARY ROSTER
7	Year 7 Area	COLA: Front of assembly area	Year 7 Toilets	Monday Lunch
8	TAS Garden and Oval	COLA: Back of assembly area	Weather sheds	Tuesday Lunch
9	Basketball Courts	Weather sheds	Weather sheds	Wednesday Lunch
10	COLA	MPC	Weather sheds	Thursday Lunch
11	Winter Courtyard	Library	A Block Senior Toilets	Friday Lunch and every recess
12	Year 12 Area	Year 12 Area	A Block Senior Toilets	Upon request
SEIL	Support Unit area and front of D Block	Support Unit area and front of D Block	Weather sheds	With year groups

School Map for Year Level Break Areas



## Appendix 2: Covid-Smart measures for schools



Keeping NSW schools open will enable our staff to guide each student according to their unique needs and abilities. The following measures will help keep our schools safe and open.



### WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS

- If you display any symptoms, even mild, you must not attend school and should take a PCR test (nose and throat swab) or rapid antigen test (RAT) as soon as possible.
- If symptoms continue you should stay at home and take another rapid antigen test in 24 hours or have a PCR test.



### VACCINATIONS

- All staff on school sites must be fully vaccinated.
- We strongly encourage all students and their families to get vaccinated. Children aged 5 to 11 can now get vaccinated.
- Once eligible, all adults are encouraged to get booster shots.



### TESTING

#### Before the start of term 1

- Rapid antigen tests will be provided to all staff and students through their schools. Schools will inform their local communities on how these kits can be collected.
- All staff and students are asked to take a rapid antigen test and get a negative result before attending school at the start of term 1. Your school will provide advice on when tests should be taken.

#### At the start of term 1

- For the first 4 weeks, students and staff should take a rapid antigen test twice a week on the morning before attending school. Test kits will continue to be supplied by schools.
- Schools are not required to keep records of who picks up a rapid antigen test.



### COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

- If there is a positive case in a class, year or other grouping, the other students can continue to attend school in line with NSW Health advice.
- Staff and students who get a positive rapid antigen test result must register it on [service.nsw.gov.au](https://service.nsw.gov.au) or the Service NSW app as soon as possible.
- Staff and students who receive a positive rapid antigen or PCR test result must tell their school as soon as possible, and follow NSW Health advice.
- Schools will regularly communicate to parents about the presence and impact of COVID-19 in their community. Parents should expect to be provided with details of any impacted year groups or cohorts.





## VENTILATION

- Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise the risk of transmission. Please open doors and windows where possible.
- All learning spaces in public schools have been checked to ensure appropriate levels of ventilation and air purifiers have been provided where needed.
- In areas such as staff rooms, staff are reminded to maintain both social distancing of 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup>, and appropriate levels of natural ventilation.
- Using outdoor spaces will continue to be encouraged.



## MASKS

- All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors.
- No vented masks or cloth masks should be worn. If required, surgical masks will be available at schools.
- Secondary school students are required to wear masks.
- Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors.



## ACTIVITIES

- COVID-19 will be considered in all risk assessments. Guidance will be provided to schools on applying appropriate safeguards across a range of activities.
- Parents will be made aware of the risk of exposure and will need to give their permission for participation in extra-curricular, out of school hours or off-site activities



## STUDENT COHORTING

- Schools will continue using cohort arrangements and consider staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access.
- Depending on the school, cohort size and timetables, cohorts may be based on classes, years or stages.



## VISITORS

- Visitors on school sites should be kept to a minimum to support essential school activities or student needs. Visitors will be required to wear a mask indoors and will be encouraged to wear a mask outdoors if they cannot maintain physical distancing.
- Schools are advised to allow a maximum of 2 parents or carers per student onto school grounds for Kindergarten orientation or Year 7 transition.



## KEEPING SCHOOLS OPEN

- Teachers and other staff are asked to respect the rules at their school to help keep the community safe, and ensure the appropriate supervision and continuity of learning for students.
- Schools will do everything they can to maintain continuity of face-to-face learning on site. Plans are in place to increase the pool of casual staff available to support schools.
- Schools will need to make localised staffing decisions to ensure appropriate supervision can be maintained.
- Contingency plans for staff shortages will include casual staff, teachers from nearby schools, retired teachers, student teachers as well as other staff, and combining classes.



## LEARNING FROM HOME

- We will continue to monitor the situation and where face-to-face learning is not possible, learning from home options will be supported for short periods.

For more info, visit [education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families](https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families)

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring school operations continue while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of students and school staff.



## 5. Appendix 5: Student Scenarios

The following scenarios were provided to students and families in the Level 3 Return to THS Student and Families Q&A Booklet, 2021. Much of this advice has not changed:

1) *I am a Year 11 student (or Year 10 Accelerated student) and have flu-like symptoms. I know I need to stay home and get tested but my symptoms aren't that bad. My RAT is negative but I still have symptoms. What should I do?*

- Do not attend school.
- Contact a Deputy Principal (10-12) or Head Teacher (7 to 9) to explain your absence from an assessment task
- Get tested. Do not return until you have a negative result, are symptom free, and are no longer required to self-isolate (if applicable)
- Within three days of your return to school, speak to your DP (Years10-12) and pick up forms to start the THS Illness/Misadventure process. You will need evidence to support your application. You can also access these forms electronically on the THS Website.

2) *What if my family decide it is best for me not to return to face-to-face learning?*

- All students are expected to attend and participate in their regularly timetabled lessons, in-person, in their regular classrooms.
- If a student is unable to return to school due to an underlying health condition, placing them or a household member at greater risk from the impact of COVID-19:
  - Families must provide medical documentation which may include certificates from medical specialists
  - If the medical certificate is provided and accepted by the Principal, THS will continue to provide learning from home materials.
  - Students will be expected to submit one piece of work, per class per week to meet participation requirements

3) *I am required by NSW Health to self-isolate. What should I do?*

- Contact the school and advise of your absence, including anticipated length, and provide evidence of your need to self-isolate. Your absence can then be recorded as Explained - Sick
- Do not return to school for the length of time you have been instructed by NSW Health to self-isolate
- If you cannot attend school for two weeks or more, and if the medical documentation is provided and accepted by the Principal, THS will provide learning from home materials via Canvas.
- You will be expected to submit one piece of work, per class per week to meet participation requirements
- Do not return until you have a negative result or clearance certificate from NSW Health, are symptom free, and are no longer required to self-isolate
- You must provide evidence of your negative result or clearance certificate from NSW Health at the front office prior to attending Roll Call on the first day of your return to school.