



COVID-19 TLK Youth College Return to School Roadmap 2022

From the beginning of Term 1 2022, TLK Youth College will operate with a number of COVID-smart measures that have been developed with NSW Health to minimise transmission and keep our school and other schools open.

These key measures include:

- use of rapid antigen tests by students and staff
- ensuring all staff on school sites are fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- wearing surgical masks indoors
- using cohort arrangements
- maximising ventilation
- encouraging regular hand washing and continuing enhanced cleaning of schools
- strictly limiting visitors on school sites
- assessing high risk activities and applying appropriate safeguards
- learning from home where face-to-face learning is not possible.

Testing

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) will be provided to students and staff by TLK Youth College, initially for the first four (4) weeks of Term 1.

Before the start of Term 1, it is recommended all students undertake a RAT and confirm a negative result before attending school.

For the first 4 weeks of Term 1, TLK Youth College recommends students and staff take a RAT twice a week on mornings before attending school (ideally Monday and Wednesday):

- If you have even mild COVID-19 symptoms, get tested with a RAT or PCR (nose and throat swab) test.
- You must isolate until you receive a negative test result, in line with health protocols.
- If symptoms continue, you should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test. If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative, or another diagnosis is confirmed such as hay fever, you can return to school.

For positive COVID-19 cases

If there is a positive case within a student year or other grouping, the other students in the given year or other grouping can continue to attend school in line with NSW Health advice.

If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT test, they need to:

- Record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app
- Notify TLK Youth College of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible
- Follow NSW Health advice to **isolate for 7 days**.

Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

TLK Youth College will inform our community when there is a positive case in the school and guide families on NSW Health advice, including monitoring for symptoms. Parents will get regular communication with details of any impacted year groups or student groupings.

Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and reduces the risk of spreading it to others. All staff on TLK Youth College school site, are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and are expected to access their booster shot when they become eligible.

We strongly recommend all our students (and their family members, who are 5 years and older) get vaccinated. This is in line with the latest health advice. Once eligible all students and their families are encouraged to get booster shots. Current health advice is that booster shots are now available from three months after the second dose. Please consult your General Practitioner or vaccine provider for further information.

Masks

All TLK Youth College staff, students and visitors are required to wear surgical masks indoors. Only exception is when in an office/classroom space without any other individual in the room, or through a medical exemption provided by a general practitioner. These masks should be provided from home, due to the limited supply available on school site.

Vented or cloth masks should NOT be worn due to the limited protection of these materials.

Masks will continue to be strongly encouraged in outdoor settings, where staff and students cannot physically distance.

A staff member, or student can remove their mask when:

- Eating
- Exercising
- In a setting as explained above.

Cohorting

Keeping students in cohort groups where practical, will help minimise the potential for widespread transmission across TLK Youth College.

TLK Youth College will continue using cohort arrangements for classroom activities and break times.

Cohorts will be in 'stage groups' with Year 9/10 being one cohort and Year 11/12 being another. These cohorts will not exceed 30 students.

Ventilation

Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise risk of transmission. TLK Youth College will open external windows, our high louvers and keep doors open, to allow fresh airflow into indoor learning spaces. Staff are encouraged to use outdoor learning spaces where practicable.

Hygiene and cleaning

Students and staff are encouraged to wash or sanitise their hands regularly. There will be a supply of hand sanitiser available in each classroom, common room, and office space.

TLK Youth College will continue to use enhanced cleaning processes. Target areas include high-touch areas, hard surfaces, door handles, light switches and areas where students and staff move through regularly.

Visitors on school grounds

No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on TLK Youth College until further notice with the following exceptions:

- A parent or carer of a new student is allowed to accompany their young person to school on their first day.
- Volunteer approved by the Principal and/or delegate.
- Visitors supporting TLK Youth College school operations and curriculum delivery. These people also, must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing/support of students. Also, must be fully vaccinated.

Activities

Guidelines are still in consultation phase. These guidelines will soon be made available to schools on how to assess activities with a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 and apply appropriate safeguards.

Learning from home

Where face-to-face learning is not possible, in consultation with the TLK Youth College Principal and/or Head Teacher, learning from home options may be supported for short periods.

Staff and student safety continues to be of paramount importance. Face-to-face learning will remain the first option at TLK Youth College. However, TLK Youth College may need to switch to learning from home if staff shortages become unmanageable for the safety and wellbeing of all, and if students are unable to be adequately educated and supervised on school site.