

IEUA-QNT FACTSHEET



Health and safety in education workplaces

It is critical that arrangements in schools and other education workplaces provide a safe and healthy environment for school staff and students.

You can read a full copy of our union's [Term 2 Operational Guidelines](#) for best practice advice on all aspects of current school operations.

These guidelines largely reflect equivalent advice in Education Queensland.

Hand cleaning and hygiene

School arrangements should be put in place to allow staff and students to regularly clean their hands.

Cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs remains a key component to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please contact our union if your workplace is not providing adequate hygiene products.

Social distancing in schools

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has published advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools. This advice included information about practising physical distancing and minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Employees and adult members of the school community

Social distancing measures for adults remain in place. Staff and parents should not congregate in areas inside or around the school (e.g. school car parks, outside classrooms etc).

Employees should continue to observe the national directions regarding physical distancing of 1.5 metres.

School students

While social distancing measures are not mandated for students in classrooms, they remain an important consideration for schools to follow best practice health and safety protections.

The *Workplace Health and Safety Act* requires all employers to take "reasonably practicable" measures to minimise health and safety risks - and social distancing of all persons in a workplace is one such reasonable precaution.

Our union strongly recommends that social distancing measures be maintained for students and that school arrangements, classrooms and facilities be amended accordingly.

Student illness and reporting arrangements

Unwell students should not attend the school site. Schools should require that they are collected by their parent/carer.

All suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases will be escalated and any measures such as self-quarantine and contact tracing should be reported through existing channels.

Summary of best practice safety interventions

It is recommended that employers and school staff follow these best practice safety measures:

- avoid sharing small office spaces
- adhere to social distancing of at least 1.5 metres including in staff rooms and other shared spaces
- use hygiene products and continue to practise good hand washing and cough/sneeze hygiene
- unwell staff members should remain or return home
- open windows to promote air flow where possible
- take appropriate security measures if working in isolated areas of school sites
- school cleaning should prioritise those areas in use by students and staff, with extra attention to, and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces such as door handles, light switches, desks, toilets and taps