

Dear Principals,

We are pleased to be able to share with you research prepared by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) into the transmission of COVID-19 in NSW schools: [here](#)

This research suggests that spread of COVID-19 within NSW schools has been very limited, and considerably less than seen for other respiratory viruses, such as influenza. The research investigated COVID-19 cases across 15 NSW primary and high schools. Of the 863 close contacts, only two students have been identified as secondary cases, and no evidence was found of children infecting teachers.

We would like to particularly thank all schools, staff and student contacts and their families who participated in this investigation, especially those who assisted with the enhanced investigation. We hope to continue this productive relationship and research into any further transmission of COVID-19 within school environments with your continued cooperation.

These results are a testament to the excellent work taking place in our schools to follow the infection control procedures and health guidance to stop the spread of COVID-19. The research reinforces the need for both adults and children to ensure they do not attend school when ill and if they become ill to promptly isolate themselves and seek medical attention.

The staged return to schools from 11 May 2020 is so important to implementing sustainable measures to support the provision of:

- A safe environment for the school community
- Equitable return to face to face teaching for all students
- Quality learning

The ongoing research, with the cooperation of schools and NSW Health, will continue to guide our approach to responding to COVID-19.

We encourage you, if you are sick, and think you have symptoms of COVID-19, to seek testing. We also ask for your cooperation in encouraging all staff and students at your school to stay home and seek testing if they have any symptoms.

NSW Health and the Department of Education are continuing to work closely throughout this time. We would both like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



Mark Scott  
Secretary  
NSW Department of Education



Kerry Chant  
NSW Chief Health Officer  
NSW Ministry of Health