

[View this email in your browser](#)



The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP
Member for Vaucluse



24 January 2022

Dear Resident

The NSW Government has announced its plan to return students safely to school next week. The plan includes twice weekly RAT tests for students and school staff for the first four weeks of term, mandatory masks at high schools and limited interactions between year groups. The Premier's announcement is included below.

Today, I received my booster dose with help from the amazing staff at St Vincents Hospital. You can now get your booster shot sooner with NSW-run vaccination clinics offering COVID-19 booster vaccinations three months after people have received their second dose. Eligible people can also receive a booster from their GP and participating community pharmacies and they can be [booked online](#).



There's good news with the NSW Government Event Saver Fund supporting organisers of major events and festivals that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. The details are below. Rent relief regulation for small businesses has also been extended until March 13 2022. I've also included today's NSW Health update, local COVID figures and updated information on local testing clinics.

I'm also pleased to announce that the new Premier, Dom Perrottet, has appointed me as his Parliamentary Secretary. I look forward to assisting him with the Government's agenda.

Kind regards



Sunday, 23 January 2022

COVID-SMART PLAN TO START 2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Students will return to school under COVID-smart settings that will minimise the risk of the virus and allow teachers and pupils to return safely to the classroom.

As part of the new measures, every student and teacher in NSW government and non-government schools will be able to receive rapid antigen test (RAT) kits before school returns on February 1.

The COVID-Smart Plan to keep schools open and students safe includes:

- Twice a week surveillance testing for primary and high school students, school staff and early childhood staff. Surveillance testing will be undertaken for the first four weeks of term, with two weeks of supply distributed before term starts
- Mandatory mask wearing for all staff and high school students, with masks encouraged for children in primary schools
- Limiting interaction between year groups
- Limiting visitors to those providing essential curriculum and wellbeing support
- COVID-safe settings in place for music, sport and excursions
- Maximising natural and mechanical ventilation, with air purifiers dispatched to where they are needed
- Contingency plans in place to manage any disruptions to the workforce

Premier Dominic Perrottet said supporting students to return safely to the classroom is vital after two years of disruption to their education.

“Students learn best at school, some students have spent a quarter of their schooling at home. We’re committed to bringing students back safely,” Mr Perrottet said.

“New COVID-smart measures will help make this happen, including surveillance testing both students and staff twice weekly with RATs.

“What is most important about this approach is that it allows students to enjoy all aspects of their schooling in a safe and sensible way.

“The government is distributing more than 12 million RATs to over 3150 government, non-government schools and early childhood centres to assist with surveillance testing of staff and students.”

Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell said testing complements other COVID smart measures in schools, including mandatory vaccination for staff, increased vaccination coverage for students, mask-wearing, cleaning, cohorting and limited visitors on-site.

“We have worked closely with the Victorian Government to create plans that achieve the same important goals of seeing our students learning in their classrooms safely and with minimal disruption,” Ms Mitchell said.

“Activities students love, such as music, school sport and assemblies, will continue with settings in place similar to late last year.”
A number of staffing contingencies are in place including utilising retired and studying teachers.

The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales Dr Geoff Newcombe AM said all three school sectors worked closely together to develop the back to school arrangements.

“School communities should feel confident about returning for Term 1 under these arrangements, which allow a wide range of activities to proceed with appropriate risk-assessment and planning,” Dr Newcombe said.

Catholic Schools NSW Chief Executive Officer Dallas McInerney said it is imperative that we have schools that are safe and that remain open.

“We need to keep our students, teachers and families safe and also provide stability. We know that our kids learn best when they’re in the classroom with their teacher and peers,” Mr McInerney said.

Families will be notified by their schools on how and when to collect the RAT kits for their children.

In the 12 to 15-year-old age group, more than 80 per cent of children have had their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 78 per cent are double-dosed. In the 5 to 11-year-old age group, more than 24 per cent of children have had their first dose.

Clinical evidence suggests the Omicron variant is milder and less likely to result in serious illness, particularly amongst children, and that vaccines, especially boosters, are effective in protecting the community. More information on the return to school settings for NSW public schools is available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

[CLICK HERE FOR PARENTS & CARERS FACT SHEET](#)

NSW GOVERNMENT FUND FOR MAJOR EVENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

Organisers of major events and festivals that have been cancelled or significantly disrupted by COVID Public Health Orders will be supported by funding through the [NSW Government's Event Saver Fund](#).

The Fund will enable event organisers to pay suppliers, staff and recover other costs where an event is cancelled or significantly disrupted as a result of public health orders.

RELIEF EXTENDED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES & LANDOWNERS

Small businesses that are continuing to face challenges due to COVID-19 will benefit from an additional two months of [rent relief and protection from eviction](#), with the NSW Government extending its rent relief regulation until March 13 2022.

NSW landowners will also have more time to apply for [land tax relief](#), with applications extended until 28 February 2022 for eligible commercial and residential landowners.

Eligible landlords can also access the [Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund](#), which provides small commercial or retail landlords with a monthly grant up to the value of any rental relief provided, to a maximum of \$3,000 per month per property.

COVID-19 STATISTICS FOR THE VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE

Source: [NSW Government Website](#) (accessed at 12:29pm 24 January 2022).

State-wide vaccination rates can be viewed [here](#).

Post Code	Suburbs	Active COVID Cases	Vaccination Rate (1st dose/2nd dose) 15y.o+
2030	Watsons Bay, Dover Heights, Vaucluse, Rose Bay North	426	90%+ / 90%+
2029	Rose Bay	346	90%+ / 90%+
2028	Double Bay	96	70-80% / 70-80%
2027	Point Piper, Darling Point, Edgecliff	157	80-90% / 80-90%
2026	Bondi, Bondi Beach, North Bondi	1293	80-90% / 80-90%
2025	Woollahra	172	80-90% / 80-90%
2023	Bellevue Hill	313	80-90% / 80-90%
2022	Bondi Junction, Queens Park	465	90%+ / 80-90%



24 January 2022

NSW PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT - COVID-19 STATISTICS

Across NSW, more than 95 per cent of people aged 16 and over have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 93.9 per cent have received two doses to Saturday 22 January 2022.

Of people aged 12 to 15, 82.7 per cent have received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and 78.4 per cent have received two doses. Of people aged 5 to 11, 28 per cent have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The total number of vaccines administered in NSW is now 15,241,833 with 4,707,550 doses administered by NSW Health to 8pm last night and 10,534,283 administered by the GP network, pharmacies and other providers to 11:59pm on Saturday 22 January 2022.

NSW Health encourages everyone who is eligible to receive a vaccination or their booster dose to book into a NSW Health vaccination clinic or another provider without delay through the [COVID-19 vaccine clinic finder](#).

Sadly, NSW Health is reporting the deaths of 24 people with COVID-19; 16 men and eight women.

Of the 24 people who died; two people were aged in their 50s, one person was in their 60s, two people were in their 70s, 12 people were in their 80s and seven people were in their 90s. Older age is a significant risk factor for serious illness and death for COVID-19, particularly when combined with significant underlying health conditions.

Two people had received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, 16 people had received two doses, three people had received one dose and three people were not vaccinated.

Of the two people who died aged under 65, both were men who had serious underlying health conditions. One man had received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and one had received three doses.

Ten people were from south western Sydney, three people were from western Sydney, five people were from south eastern Sydney, four people were from Sydney's inner west and two people were from northern NSW.

NSW Health expresses its sincere condolences to their loved ones. This brings the total number of COVID-19 related deaths in NSW since the beginning of the pandemic to 1,112.

There are currently 2,816 COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital, including 196 people in intensive care, 69 of whom require ventilation.

There were 15,091 positive test results (cases) notified to 8pm last night – including 6,901 positive rapid antigen tests (RATs) and 8,190 positive PCR tests.

Of the 6,901 positive RAT results, 6,336 of these positive tests were from the previous seven days. Please note there may be some cases included in these numbers where people have reported positive RATs on multiple days and/or where people have also had a positive PCR test during the same reporting period.

The 8,190 positive PCR results were returned from 48,481 PCR tests. Following further investigation, 191 COVID-19 cases detected by PCR tests have been excluded, bringing the total number of cases detected by PCR tests in NSW since the beginning of the pandemic to 757,386.

Of the 8,190 cases reported from PCR tests to 8pm last night, 1,330 are from Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD), 1,160 are from South Western Sydney LHD, 766 are from South Eastern Sydney LHD, 722 are from Hunter New England LHD, 691 are from Northern Sydney LHD, 678 are from Sydney LHD, 516 are from Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, 470 are from Western NSW LHD, 377 are from Nepean Blue Mountains LHD, 346 are from Murrumbidgee LHD, 311 are from Central Coast LHD, 234 are from Northern NSW LHD, 191 are from Mid

North Coast LHD, 189 are from Southern NSW LHD, 36 are from Far West LHD, five are from correctional settings and 168 are yet to be assigned to an LHD.

Of the 6,901 positive RATs reported, 940 are from South Western Sydney LHD, 864 are from Western Sydney LHD, 820 are from South Eastern Sydney LHD, 790 are from Hunter New England LHD, 768 are from Northern Sydney LHD, 509 are from Sydney LHD, 380 are from Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, 336 are from Central Coast LHD, 330 are from Nepean Blue Mountains LHD, 330 are from Northern NSW LHD, 207 are from Mid North Coast LHD, 207 are from Western NSW LHD, 189 are from Murrumbidgee LHD, 111 are from Southern NSW LHD, 19 are from Far West LHD and 101 are yet to be assigned to an LHD.

There are COVID-19 testing locations across NSW, many of which are open seven days a week. To find your nearest clinic visit [COVID-19 clinics](#) or contact your GP.

COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

Residents are encouraged to get tested when they have even the mildest of symptoms. Here are some testing clinics in the local area with private testing also available via GPs:

- **Bondi Junction Respiratory Clinic**, 47 Spring Street, Bondi Junction (9am-5:00pm Mon-Fri & 9:00am-11:30am Sat - [Appointments required](#))
- **Bondi Junction 4Cyte Pathology Walk-in Clinic**, 50 Bronte Road, Bondi Junction (8am-12pm 7 days)
- **Bondi Junction Laverty Pathology Drive-through and Walk-in Clinic**, Lvl 2 Car park, 34 Waverley Street, Bondi Junction (8am-12pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)
- **Rose Bay Laverty Pathology Drive-through**, Lyne Park, Vickery Avenue Car Park, Rose Bay (8am-12pm Sun-Fri)
- **Bondi Beach drive-through Clinic**, Entry on junction of Campbell Parade and Beach Road (7:30am-5pm Thurs-Tues, 8:30am-3pm Wed)
- **Prince of Wales Hospital**, Building 14B Avoca Street, Randwick (9am-7pm 7 days)

To view all NSW COVID-19 clinics, please click [here](#).

[Information on COVID-19 Vaccination in NSW](#)

[Information for NSW Businesses and Employees](#)

You can forward this e-newsletter to a friend by [clicking here](#).



Copyright © Gabrielle Upton MP, 2022. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 560, DOUBLE BAY NSW 1360

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).