



# COVID-19 Guidelines

*Updated February 2023*

The following guidance is provided to all NAS staff and students to assist in managing COVID-19 at NAS.

These guidelines should be interpreted within the broader context of [NSW Health advice](#) and within the more specific context of the applicable setting or activity.

Protocols and procedures across NAS campus and operations are reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis to support the safety and well-being of all at NAS and to ensure compliance with relevant Government guidelines and legislation.

Whilst a range of previously mandated Public Health Orders and COVID-19 Safety measures are no longer in place in NSW, NAS recognises that COVID-19 transmissions persist within the broader community and that some members of our community may be severely impacted if they contract COVID-19.

Please observe the following advice to help make NAS as safe as possible for all students and staff and visitors.

## Vaccination

NAS encourages all staff and students to stay up to date with both COVID-19 and Flu vaccinations.

Staying up to date with vaccinations is a simple step you can take to help protect yourself and those around you.

**Whilst NAS strongly encourages vaccination, students are not required to be vaccinated as a condition of their enrolment at NAS from the commencement of the 2023 academic year.**

## Staff and students diagnosed with COVID-19

If you have been diagnosed with Covid-19, please adhere to all [guidelines issued by NSW Health](#)

- **Stay at home and take any steps necessary to protect others**
- **Do not return to NAS until you are free of symptoms**

Upon return to NAS students should discuss what they have missed with relevant lecturers. This is especially important if an assessment task has been missed.

Students who believe they will absent for a significant period, should contact NAS Student Services by email: [Student.Services@nas.edu.au](mailto:Student.Services@nas.edu.au) or telephone: 02 9339 8651 who will provide advice and notify teaching staff where required.

## Staff and students who have a household member diagnosed with COVID-19

If a member of your household has been diagnosed with Covid-19 or if you feel you have been exposed to COVID-19, please adhere to all [advice issued by NSW Health](#)

- **Monitor for symptoms and if they develop follow advice (above)**
- **Do not attend NAS if you are displaying symptoms**

## Staff and students experiencing cold or flu symptoms

If you feel unwell, staying at home will reduce the risk of passing on your illness onto others.

**Staff or students who are experiencing cold or flu symptoms should not attend NAS.**

**Even if you have tested negative to COVID-19 you should not be in attendance with cold or flu symptoms.**

On return to NAS students should discuss what they have missed with relevant lecturers. This is especially important if an assessment task has been missed.

Students who believe they will absent for a significant period, should contact NAS Student Services by email: [Student.Services@nas.edu.au](mailto:Student.Services@nas.edu.au) or telephone: 02 9339 8651 who will provide advice and notify teaching staff where required.

## Use of Facemasks

Under current Public Health requirements, the wearing of facemasks is only compulsory in specific high-risk settings: health, disability and aged care.

**The wearing of facemasks is not compulsory at NAS however the use of masks is encouraged in settings where you feel you cannot maintain a safe distance from others.**

Facemasks provide a significant level of protection from COVID-19 transmission. Staff and students who may be particularly vulnerable (due to chronic health conditions etc.) or who live with someone who is vulnerable are strongly encouraged to wear a facemask at any time they feel they cannot maintain appropriate distance from others.

## Ventilation of Spaces

Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Mechanical or natural ventilation of studios and workspaces should be always maintained wherever possible.

## Hygiene Protocols

NAS continues to review and update hygiene protocols in response to health advice and in conjunction ongoing operational requirements.

Hygiene protocols developed for any specific studio or work areas or activity at NAS must be adhered with.

## Physical Distancing

Naturally, the dynamic movement of people in a studio or workspace environment and the occasional need to closely to others creates challenges for the maintenance of social distancing principles. Some tolerance of incidental proximity may be required to maintain a functional working, teaching and learning environment.

Should the need to move in close proximity to another arise, please signal your intention and wait for acknowledgement before doing so.

Teaching staff should monitor the movements of classes/students under their supervision and calmly intervene wherever necessary.

- Group work / work in pairs that requires close proximity should be limited

- Studio processes should be carefully managed to avoid 'bottlenecks'

- Suitable activities may be moved outdoors

## What should I do if another student or staff member appears to be displaying cold or flu symptoms?

Students and staff displaying cold and flu symptoms should not be attending NAS.

If you are concerned that someone displaying such symptoms is in attendance, please speak with your lecturer, Head of Department or area manager rather than trying to address the issue directly with the person yourself.

*Students or staff displaying cold and flu-like symptoms may be directed by staff to leave NAS and stay at home until symptoms have ceased. In the interests of the health and welfare of all at NAS, it is important that staff and students comply with any such request.*

**Even if you have tested negative to COVID-19 you should not be in attendance with cold or flu symptoms.**

## Dealing with varying attitudes toward COVID-19 at NAS

Individuals bring a variety of attitudes and expectations toward COVID-19 Safety. Tolerance, respect and cooperation needs to be maintained by all staff and students.

If at any time you feel concerned or unsafe, please speak with your Lecturer, Head of Department or area manager who will advise or escalate any significant concerns to the relevant Head of Department or Management representative for advice or action.

## Mental Health & Wellbeing

The mental health and wellbeing of staff and students is very important to NAS.

If you have any concern for your wellbeing, please contact:

### Students

Emily Boerma, NAS Student Wellbeing Officer

[wellbeing@nas.edu.au](mailto:wellbeing@nas.edu.au) or enquire with Student Services Reception desk

The Wellbeing Officer can provide advice and assist student in referral to NAS' free and confidential student counselling service.

NAS also provides a broad range of advice and support services for students. You can read about these services [here](#).

### Staff

Juanita Hyde, NAS Head of People & Culture

[Juanita.hyde@nas.edu.au](mailto:Juanita.hyde@nas.edu.au)

The Head of People & Culture can assist staff in accessing free and confidential staff counselling services through NAS' Employee Assistance Program provided by Access EAP.