Schools are working with students and families to ensure educational, wellbeing and engagement supports are in place, so that students are connected with learning and engaged in a positive transition into 2022.

# **Working with your child’s school**

To make sure there is a current plan for understanding and meeting your child’s needs:

* Participate in a [Student Support Group (SSG)](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-student-support-groups.aspx) meeting.
* Talk to your child’s teacher about updating their [individual education plan](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-learning-support.aspx#iep) to guide their learning.
* Share current information about your child’s needs (such as assessments and medical reports).

# **Students with complex health needs**

If your child has complex health needs:

* Seek advice from their medical practitioner to support decision-making about attending school on-site at different stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Work with your child’s school to make sure their [Student Health](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/health/studenthealthsupport.doc) [Support Plan](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/health/studenthealthsupport.doc) is up to date.

# **Health and safety actions**

Schools are taking actions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission with the school environment, see: [Health and safety advice for all Victorian schools](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/Pages/healthadvice.aspx).

# **Vaccinations for students**

Children aged 12 and over can get a COVID-19 vaccine.

People with a disability may visit any [Victorian vaccination centre](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres) to get vaccinated, without needing to book an appointment.

Nine Victorian [vaccination centres](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres) have enhanced accessibility, including on-site hearing augmentation devices and communication tools.

Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) help people with a disability access health services, including vaccinations.

The DLOs can help people with disability to:

* book a COVID-19 vaccination.
* get a vaccination if they’re not able to attend a [vaccination centre](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres).

For information and resources, including contact details for DLOs, see [vaccine information for people with a disability](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability).

# **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

If your child is an NDIS participant, [Latest advice NDIS](https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/latest-advice-ndis) contains information for NDIS participants including what support is available.

For more information you can contact your child's NDIS [Local Area Coordinator](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html) or the NDIS on 1800 800 110.

If your child is not an NDIS participant you can test their eligibility by contacting [Local Area Coordinator](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html), the NDIS on 1800 800 110 or visit: [Am I eligible](https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/am-i-eligible).

# **School transitions**

Schools continue to provide learning and education experiences to meet students’ needs. This is a focus as children and young people participate in school transitions into next year.

* Some parents and carers may be worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of COVID-19. There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students meet their learning needs and support them to **move through year levels** with their peers.
* All children **starting Prep in 2022** will be supported to continue their learning as they transition to school.
* Year 6 students will be supported to finish this school year strong, with the confidence to move to **secondary schooling in 2022**.
* Students in their **final year of school** will be supported by their school to transition to employment or other options in 2022.

# [**Talking to your child about**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx) **COVID-19**

[Advice](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/talking-your-child-about-coronavirus-covid-19) on having a safe and reassuring conversation about COVID-19, available in a range of community languages.

# [**Tips to support your child’s health and**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning-screentime-wellbeing.aspx)[**wellbeing**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning-screentime-wellbeing.aspx)

Advice, tips and resources available for parents and carers to support their child’s mental and physical health and wellbeing. It covers a range of topics including:

* [Managing screen time and online safety](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning-screentime-wellbeing.aspx)
* [Looking after your child’s wellbeing](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/your-childs-wellbeing-advice.pdf)
* [Looking after your child’s mental health](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/your-childs-mental-health-advice.pdf)
* [Physical activity and healthy eating](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/family-health/Pages/healthy-eating-physical-activity.aspx)
* [Taking care of yourself](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/family-health/Pages/taking-care-of-yourself.aspx)
* [Wellbeing for parents of primary school students](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/parents-wellbeing-activities-primary.pdf)
* [Wellbeing for parents of secondary students](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/parents-wellbeing-activities-secondary.pdf)

# **Other supports**

The [Association for Children with a Disability](https://www.acd.org.au/covid-19-latest-information/) and [Amaze](https://www.amaze.org.au/) are providing information and support for families during coronavirus (COVID-19).

[AllPlay Learn](https://allplaylearn.org.au/) helps to create inclusive education environments through practical online information, courses and resources for teachers, as well as resources for parents, children and the community.