

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS IN HOMESTAY

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This information is current as of 2/02/2022.

The NSW Department of Education considers the safety and welfare of our international students to be of the highest importance. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it necessary to introduce additional processes and requirements to support our students and homestay families.

Our homestay families continue to provide a [high level of care](#) for students, including caring for students during illness, except when requiring hospitalisation.

The information below outlines some of the additional measures introduced by DE International to ensure a high level of care for international students in homestays approved by the NSW Department of Education.

Q: Will everyone living in a homestay be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and required to receive booster vaccines?

It is DE International's expectation that everyone residing at the homestay residence [who is eligible to be vaccinated](#) (including regular visitors) will either be fully vaccinated or will receive their first vaccine within 2 months of becoming eligible and be willing to receive any further booster vaccines in accordance with NSW Health guidance.

Q: Will the driver delivering my child from the airport to the homestay be fully vaccinated?

It is DE International's expectation that all drivers meeting with and transporting international students from the airport to their homestay will be fully vaccinated.

Q: What are the quarantine requirements for international students returning to NSW?

Fully vaccinated international students are not required to quarantine under Australian and NSW government requirements.

All fully vaccinated international travellers arriving in NSW are required to get a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) within 24 hours after arrival and self-isolate in their residence until they receive a negative result. All students will be required to take a follow up RAT on day 6 after arriving in NSW.

Further information (in 11 languages) on government requirements for the period leading up to and after arrival in NSW can be found here: <https://www.study.sydney/return/pre-departure>.

Q: Where can a newly arrived international student get a RAT and will there be a cost?

NSW Department of Education will endeavour to make **two complimentary RATs** available for each student arriving at their homestay or parent nominated address for Terms 1 and 2, 2022. Your child may purchase additional RATs locally. However, due to RAT supply shortages in Australia, your child is strongly encouraged to bring RATs from overseas for personal usage.

Q: What is required when self-isolating?

Self-isolation requires that your child stays at home away from other people. This means:

- not going to school
- not going to other places
- not using public transport
- not having any visitors in the home.

During self-isolation, your child must:

- stay and sleep in a separate room
- use a separate bathroom (if available) or clean a shared bathroom after each use
- avoid being in the same room as another person
- wear a mask in shared areas
- not share household items, including dishes, cups, towels, bedding and must thoroughly wash these items with soap after use.
- only leave the home to get a COVID-19 PCR test, to obtain medical care or in an emergency
- practise good hygiene including:
 - covering coughs and sneezes
 - regularly cleaning all surfaces touched (such as tabletops, door knobs, and bathroom fixtures) by using household disinfectant
 - washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
 - before entering an area where other people may go
 - before touching things used by other people
 - after using the bathroom
 - after coughing or sneezing
 - before putting on, and after removing face masks
 - before eating or drinking.

During this period, your child will be supported and monitored by the homestay carer, including through the provision of three meals a day and internet access.

Q: What happens in circumstances where either the host, a resident in the homestay premises or your child is deemed by NSW Health as a 'close contact' of a person who tests positive with COVID-19?

Your child will be deemed a close contact if they:

- live with someone who tests positive
- spend 4 hours or longer in a closed area with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19, for example, if they stayed at their house or went on a long car trip together.
- are notified by NSW Health as a close contact.

It is DE International's expectation that the homestay carer and all residents in the home, including international students, will abide by NSW Health requirements applicable to close contacts. These requirements may be found via the following link:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-contacts.aspx>

Currently, fully vaccinated close contacts are required to:

- isolate from other members of the household and the community for 7 days from when they last had contact with the COVID-19 positive person at the venue
- have a RAT immediately upon being identified as a close contact and again on day 6. Any positive results must be reported on the Service NSW app.

Fully vaccinated close contacts may leave isolation after 7 days if their COVID-19 test result on day 6 is negative but must avoid high risk settings, including health care, aged care, disability care, early childhood centres, primary schools and correctional facilities.

If your child's RAT result is negative but they are experiencing symptoms, they must stay in isolation until they display no COVID related symptoms.

These restrictions do not apply to other household members not identified as close contacts.

Q: What are the expectations in circumstances where a homestay carer or other household members test positive for COVID-19?

Where the homestay carer or other household members are required to self-isolate, it is DE International's expectation that they will comply with all NSW Health requirements. This requires them to isolate in a way that allows your child to continue accessing communal areas of the home.

Q: Will my child be required to pay for additional expenses for COVID-19 related treatment?

All international students are covered by Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), which means that your child is entitled to receive treatment for COVID-19 within the public hospital system, at no cost.

Additional costs may apply for services provided outside of a public hospital. Your child should check with the

medical health service about any potential additional costs before seeking treatment.

International students who have selected Medibank through DE International as their OSHC provider will also be entitled to a higher level of refund for medication.

Q: What support is available for my child if they are required to self-isolate in the homestay?

The homestay carer will be the main support for your child during their self-isolation period.

During the isolation period your child will have access to Wi-Fi to enable them to remain in contact with their school, family and friends.

Homestay carers may also video call with your child during self-isolation and help your child to purchase essential items.

Q: What other support is available?

Your child will have access to a wide network of support services at their school beyond their teachers, including:

- an International Student Coordinator who maintains regular contact with your child
- a school counsellor who is a trained psychologist
- bilingual staff
- a dedicated team of staff responsible for student wellbeing.

In addition, your child has access to the DE International Wellbeing Support Service, through which they can speak to a nurse or mental health professional to receive additional support. This service is available both during the school holidays and school terms.

DE International also has a dedicated team of student advisors who are available to contact if you or your child have any questions and concerns.

Further information and guidance provided by the NSW Department of Education for students attending NSW government schools can be found on the Advice for Families webpage at the following link:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families#Testing%3Cbr%3EO>

If you have any further questions, please contact the DE International team by email at isc@det.nsw.edu.au.