

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN 2022

All Aspect sites Australia-wide



Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has developed this COVID-19 Safety Plan to help create and maintain a safe environment for all staff, students/participants, families, contractors and visitors.

Note: Throughout this document “Aspect people” refers to staff, students/participants, families, contractors and visitors.

Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Aspect’s priorities have been, and continue to be, to:

1. Put the health and well-being of our students, participants and staff first, with a particular focus on strict adherence to relevant Government advice to minimise the impact of the virus.
2. Provide clear communication to Aspect’s stakeholders about the impact COVID-19 and Government restrictions have on Aspect services.
3. Manage the engagement of staff, students, participant and families with Aspect and its services.
4. Make sure that our sites are COVID-19 Safe, put processes are in place and staff know what to do to keep our students/participants, other staff and visitors to our sites safe.

Aspect’s COVID-19 Safety Plan is reviewed and updated routinely and/or when restrictions or public health advice changes.

It is Aspect’s priority to maintain a COVID-19 safe environment so that all people feel at ease when working in or visiting an Aspect site. To help achieve this Aspect has implemented an organisation-wide action plan. Each individual site will also have actions relevant to their site.

It is the manager’s/principal’s responsibility to identify any additional risks and implement appropriate risk mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at their site.

Relevant Health Authorities

[Australian Government Department of Health website](#)

[NSW Health website](#)

[Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website](#)

[South Australian Government CoVid-19 website](#)

[ACT Government CoVid-19 website](#)

GUIDANCE	ACTIONS
COVID-19 Vaccination	<p>Aspect requires all staff to be fully vaccinated (i.e. 2 doses of an approved vaccine) against COVID-19.</p> <p>Aspect is supporting staff to comply where government imposed vaccination Public Health Orders to keep their COVID-vaccination status up to date are in place .</p> <p>Aspect strongly encourages all Aspect people to be fully vaccinated and provides credible and accurate information about the vaccine in its communications and on the Intranet.</p> <p>Support and resources will be provided to students/participants who need assistance with the vaccination process.</p> <p>Aspect will support its staff to attend vaccination (including booster) appointments in work time if they are unable to get an appointment outside of work time.</p>
Exclusion of people who are unwell	<p>Anyone experiencing even mild COVID-19 symptoms (flu-like symptoms) is required to stay at home and take a test immediately. Aspect has a limited supply of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) available for people to use if they are unable to obtain any themselves.</p> <p>Anyone who displays flu like symptoms while on an Aspect site will be asked to leave and this is to be reported to the manager/principal.</p> <p>Note: in addition some sites may carry out temperature checking as required.</p> <p>Anyone who has tested positive to COVID-19 is required to follow the advice of the relevant health authority.</p> <p>Anyone who is a close contact of a person who has tested positive to COVID-19 is required to follow the relevant health authority advice.</p> <p>All confirmed COVID-19 cases of staff and other people who have visited an Aspect site must be reported to the site manager and WHS immediately.</p> <p>Aspect will report any COVID-19 positive cases to the relevant statutory body as required.</p>
Communication and consultation with Aspect people	<p>Aspect provides updates on COVID-19 safety measures via a number of communication channels, including, email, intranet, mail-outs, website and information at its sites, meetings, and training with staff and students/participants.</p> <p>Information communicated includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of sites or reduced services • Postponement of services • Transition to alternative service models • Recommencement of services • Updates on Aspect's response



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-safe measures in place <p>Should an Aspect site be impacted by a community Health Order, Aspect will endeavour to communicate with students/participants, and/or their families/carers as soon as possible and maintain contact until services return to normal.</p> <p>For clinic and home visiting services – participants/families may be contacted prior to their appointment and asked COVID-19 screening questions. If there is a COVID-risk present, the appointment will be postponed or converted to tele-therapy.</p>
For staff – communication around leave	<p>In the event a staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, they may be able to access leave for the duration of the exclusion period.</p> <p>Staff may also be able to access relevant government assistance.</p>
For staff - training	<p>Aspect has developed and communicated to all staff a range of resources, available on the Aspect intranet, covering areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated policies and procedures • Infection awareness • Returning to a COVID-Safe workplace • PPE • Cleaning Guidelines • Flexible or Alternative Working Arrangements <p>There are a range of resources and information on the Aspect website and staff Intranet and hygiene online learning modules available on AcadeMe (Aspect’s Learning Management System).</p>
For staff - Flexible working arrangements	<p>Aspect is guided by government advice in relation to flexible working arrangements and also has in place a Flexible or Alternative Working arrangements procedure.</p>
Communication of conditions of entry	<p>Participants and students are not required to be vaccinated to enter an Aspect site.</p> <p>Everyone entering an Aspect site must comply with the sign in requirements, which is communicated to all people entering a site.</p> <p>In addition, the following information is provided at entry and throughout the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • location of hand sanitiser • reminders for social distancing requirements • reminders to stay home if you are unwell and to follow good hygiene
Total number of people allowed to access the site/rooms	<p>The sites adhere to the current relevant health authority advice with regards to the total number of people allowed to access the site at any one time.</p> <p>When there are no capacity restrictions in place, everyone is strongly encouraged to continue to maintain social distancing.</p>



<p>Site set up – (see COVID-19 safe environment guidelines procedure)</p>	<p>Sites have furniture/work stations that comply with safe distancing requirements, where reasonably practicable. If a safe work station is not available, the manager will assist the employee to find an alternative.</p> <p>HEPA filters are used where suitable and appropriate.</p> <p>Aspect people are encouraged to bring their own food/utensils and not to share food and utensils when on site.</p> <p>All Aspect people are required to adhere to the information and instructions provided.</p> <p>All sites have, as a minimum, hand sanitiser readily available and alcohol wipes in all rooms for hard surfaces. Daily cleaning of the site is carried out and high touch points are cleaned as required throughout the day.</p> <p>Bathrooms contain anti-bacterial hand soap and paper towel and good hand hygiene practice posters are on display.</p> <p>All Aspect people have the option to wear a face mask. Aspect has a limited supply of masks, or people may choose to wear their own.</p>
<p>Site Cleaning - (see Cleaning Guidelines Procedure)</p>	<p>Sites are professionally cleaned on a daily basis.</p> <p>High touch areas are cleaned frequently throughout the day by Aspect staff that have been trained in the requirements.</p> <p>Aspect provides all relevant PPE for staff to undertake cleaning safely.</p> <p>Alcohol-based wipes and disinfectant are supplied by Aspect and are readily available throughout all our sites.</p> <p>Disposable gloves are supplied by Aspect and are readily available throughout all our sites.</p>
<p>Remote conferencing – (see Safe Hosting of Inclusive Zoom Meetings instruction)</p>	<p>There are facilities at all sites for telephone or video conferencing when required.</p> <p>Some services have the capacity to deliver services remotely via teleservices.</p>
<p>Deliveries to sites</p>	<p>All sites follow contactless delivery receipt arrangements.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Each site manager has a plan in place that identifies the maximum number of people and seating arrangements for Aspect vehicles, in line with current government guidelines, meeting individual student/participant needs and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>It is recommended that masks are worn when in a vehicle with others. Aspect has a limited supply of masks, or people may use their own masks.</p>

As at 22 July 2022

