



# Covid Safety Guidelines for Students

Updated February 2021

The following guidance is provided to all NAS students to assist in managing Covid Safety at NAS. These guidelines should be interpreted within the broader context of NAS's Covid Safety and Hygiene Protocols and interpreted within the more specific context of the applicable studio, facility or activity.

Please read and adhere to the following advice to help keep NAS a safe place for all students, staff and visitors.

## Campus Covid Safety Protocols

A broad range of protocols and procedures have been put in place across NAS campus and operations. These protocols and practices are reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis to ensure compliance with Public Health Orders and to ensure the safety and well-being of all at NAS.

NAS site entry and access protocols including QR Coded check-in system, and policy/protocols for use of all NAS facilities must be adhered to by all staff, students and visitors to NAS.

*Please remember that our facilities and operations staff (including Security Guards and Covid Safety Marshalls etc.) are simply doing their job to help keep NAS safe. Students are expected to engage politely and respectfully with our staff and to comply with any directions they issue.*

Please keep up to date with Government advice regarding locations of potential Covid transmission and adhere to any related advice. If you have had contact with a suspected case of Covid-19 or have been advised by health authorities that you are a close or casual contact, **do not attend NAS** until you have been advised that you are able to return.

## Personal Hygiene

Good hand and respiratory hygiene practices remain one of the most important ways to protect against the spread of infection. You can read more about maintaining good hygiene practices [here](#).

Students are required to adhere to all Hygiene Protocols of NAS and to comply with directions of staff at all times.

Please wash your hands after contact with others, using public transport, preparing food and using the bathroom.

- Wash your hands thoroughly, *for at least 20 seconds*, being sure to wash your palm, the back of your hand and your fingers and nails.
- If you are not able to wash your hands please use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Please cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or cough into your elbow.

Please also avoid the following:

- touching your face or shaking hands with or hugging others
- close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- sharing food, crockery, cutlery etc.

**Please do not attend NAS if you are experiencing cold or flu symptoms.**

## Studio Hygiene Protocols

NAS continues to review and update Studio Hygiene protocols in response to Government advice and in conjunction with our broader hygiene protocols across all aspects of NAS campus and operations.

Studio Hygiene protocols provide systems for the management of infection control within the more specific context of each respective studio or workshop area at NAS. Further information on the protocols in any specific studio or teaching area will be provided in each class/department.

## Social Distancing Principles at NAS

Current Government guidelines recommend limiting the capacity of indoor spaces to 1 person per 2 SQM. NAS timetables, class sizes and room allocations have been established in compliance with this guidance.

Government recommendations regarding physical distancing (1.5m) remain in place. The capacity of all teaching spaces to meet this requirement has been assessed and is marked at the entrance to all rooms.

In the event that a class size exceeds a room's capacity to accommodate physical distancing, the use of face masks is recommended.

### **Movement of staff and students**

Naturally, the dynamic movement of students in a studio/workshop situation and the occasional need for staff to move in close proximity to students in some teaching situations creates challenges for the maintenance of social distancing principles.

Some tolerance of incidental proximity may be required to maintain a functional teaching and learning environment.

### **What should I do if need to briefly move close to a lecturer to receive instruction or assistance?**

If this need arises, staff will let you know that they would like to move closer to assist you and will wait for your acknowledgement before doing so. If you wish to approach a lecturer, please offer the same courtesy.

### **What should I do if another student moves too close to me?**

Politely remind them that they should signal their intention before approaching and wait for your acknowledgement.

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

- Group work / work in pairs that requires close proximity will be limited
- Studio processes will be carefully managed to avoid 'bottlenecks'
- Suitable activities may be moved outdoors

## Use of Face Masks

Under current government regulations, the wearing of a facemask is only compulsory in specific circumstances. Please note that even in situations where face masks are mandated, some exemptions exist. You can read more about current advice on face masks [here](#).

In situations where physical distancing may not be possible, the use of face masks is recommended.

**Students should carry a clean face mask on them at all times and wear it in appropriate circumstances. Please note that NAS does not provide face masks to students - it is a responsibility of all students to provide their own face mask.**

## Studio/Room Capacities

Current Government guidelines recommend limiting the capacity of indoor spaces to 1 person per 2 SQM. NAS timetables, class sizes and room allocations have been established in compliance with this guidance.

### Studio spaces

Current arrangements at NAS including maximum class sizes and relevant room allocations ensure that studio spaces at NAS (including both individual and group studios) comply with the current 1 person per 2 SQM benchmark and in fact fall well within the higher capacity threshold of 1 person per 4 SQM.

In the event that the Government advises a return to the 1 person per 4 SQM benchmark no timetable change will be required for studio-based classes.

### Seminar and Tutorial spaces

Current arrangements include the timetabling of all seminars and tutorials into teaching spaces that will allow us to comply with the 1 person per 2SQM threshold.

### Core Lecture Spaces

Current arrangements include BFA 1<sup>st</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Art History & Theory core Lectures delivered online till further notice. In the event that restrictions on indoor gatherings are further eased these lectures will revert to the Cell Block Theatre as originally timetabled.

### Common Spaces

Specific arrangements including adjusted procedures and capacity restrictions are in place for a range of spaces on campus including student common areas, café etc and for facilities such as the NAS Gallery, Central Workshop and Library. Signage and information regarding these spaces is provided in each space and/or on the NAS Student Portal.

## Timetabling

Current timetables at NAS have been developed in order to ensure staggering of start and finish times and class break times across the campus.

The timetable will be reviewed on a semester basis and adjustments made as required.

## Studio Visitors

Social visits to studio areas by external visitors or students from other classes are discouraged. Staff may ask visitors to leave if they have no good reason to be in the studio area.

Students should not bring external visitors into NAS studios and workshops. If for any reason you wish to bring an external visitor to a studio area, please seek the advice and prior approval of your relevant studio Lecturer / Head of Department.

## What to do if you are experiencing cold or flu symptoms

If you have cold and flu like symptoms, **please do not attend NAS**. Get a Covid test, see your doctor and do not return to NAS until you have returned a negative result **and** are free of symptoms.

Once you are well and have returned to NAS, please discuss what you have missed with your lecturers. This is especially important if you have missed an assessment task. If you believe you will be absent for a significant period of time, please email or telephone Student Services who will notify teaching staff.

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

### What should I do if another student appears to be unwell?

Students and staff displaying such symptoms should not be attending NAS.

If you believe a student displaying such symptoms is in attendance, please speak with your lecturer rather than trying to address the issue directly with the student yourself.

## Dealing with varying attitudes toward Covid safety on campus

Students bring a variety of attitudes and expectations toward Covid Safety at NAS ranging from nonchalance to extreme caution. The need for tolerance, respect and cooperation needs to be maintained by all staff and students.

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

## Mental Health & Well-being

The mental well-being of staff and students is very important to NAS. The pandemic situation can cause or exacerbate anxiety and stress.

If you have any concern for your well-being please contact NAS Student Counselling service: [counsellor@nas.edu.au](mailto:counsellor@nas.edu.au). or enquire at the NAS Student Services desk. This free and confidential counselling service available to all NAS students.

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

The NSW Government also provides information and advice on a broad range services that can assist. You can read about these services [here](#).