



Department of
Education

Phase 3 School Camp Guidelines

Effective from 18 June 2020.

This document is uncontrolled when printed.

Not all COVID-19 information is covered in these questions and answers.

Please read this document in conjunction with the following documents:

1. Excursions in Public Schools
2. Local Area Excursions With Overnight Stay Including Camps
3. Outdoor Education and Recreation Activities for Public Schools

This document recognises that the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has stated boarding facilities pose higher COVID-19 risks than the school environment.

This document mirrors the AHPPC statement on risk management for boarding schools and school-based residential colleges but will refer to school camps and school camp sites.

School camp providers should consult with the Department of Education and review advice provided in the AHPPC statement on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools.

Guidelines

- There is a range of measures that can be undertaken in camp environments to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Maintaining good personal hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing, should be embedded in all activities.
- Student attendance at camps is at the parent/caregiver's discretion.
- Students with chronic medical conditions should seek medical advice prior to attending a school camp.
- All current Department of Education policies with regard to visitors to school sites apply in the camp environment.
- All current Department of Education policies in relation to camps and outdoor activities apply.
- All Department of Education guidelines in relation to protecting school communities from COVID-19 apply.

Facility specific risk assessment

It is noted that each facility is different and different issues will exist in each establishment. As such, each facility is **required** to undertake a facility-specific, systematic risk assessment, analysis and mitigation process to inform development of risk management plans, which include their planned response to scenarios such as single or multiple cases being identified amongst the boarders with multiple close contacts, to manage the risk posed by COVID-19.

The risk assessment should include, but not be limited to, consideration of:

- accommodation and sleeping arrangements
- hygiene facilities
- catering practices and procedures

- classroom procedure interface with dormitory procedures
- meal time procedures
- activity or learning times
- dormitory procedures
- control of entry to and exit from the camp site
- process for and records kept relating to visitors
- indoor and outdoor recreation areas
- off site visits
- vulnerable students (note that students with chronic conditions should seek medical advice prior to attending the school camp)
- the mental health of students
- vulnerable teachers or other staff
- laundry areas and other ancillary areas
- equipment to be used and cleaning of equipment
- policy and possible gaps
- education and training for COVID-19.

The risk analysis should inform the development of a Risk Management Plan that includes mitigations that lower the risk of transmission and promote good health, hygiene and physical distancing within the facility and thus seek to protect the children, the staff and the community. Mitigations should ensure that the risk is managed as far as reasonably practicable using the hierarchy of controls. The risk assessment should be used to inform the approach to operating facilities.

Camp sites should continue to refer to current health advice and information on COVID-19, adjusting procedures and protocols as required.

Strategies to limit risk in a school camp environment – meeting the current recommendations for physical distancing, as well as infection prevention and control:

- Ensure the total number of people attending the camp is consistent with Department of Education policy and with relevant statements in the Western Australian Public School Operating Guidelines in response to COVID-19.
- The maximum number of people to attend a school camp remains unchanged (100), this will be reviewed in line with Phase 4 changes.
- Clear signage should be erected demonstrating physical distancing guidelines and COVID Safe protocols to help to enforce these parameters and protocols throughout the camp site.
- Meet the current recommendations for physical distancing as well as for infection prevention and control with a focus on:
 - establishing processes to ensure that all camp participants (adults and children) are well and not symptomatic at the start of the camp
 - reducing out of camp facility visits to reduce the risk of infection introduction into the camp site
 - reducing the risk of an adult to adult transmission through all staff maintaining 1.5m distance from other adults.
- Revise sleeping arrangements:
 - Single rooms for sleeping are preferred from an infection prevention and control perspective.
 - Dormitory accommodation is associated with increased risk of transmission which needs to be prudently managed.
 - Cohorting students who are also together in a class/group within a dormitory should be considered.
- Minimise use of shared bathrooms. Preference is for individual use bathrooms and toilets where possible. If shared facilities are used, implement additional cleaning and hygiene measures and maximise physical distancing.

- Shared toilets and showers should be rostered and allocated to specific camp attendees where possible.
- In addition to increased professional cleaning of shower areas there should be access to individual student cleaning materials to allow each student to refresh these shared facilities before their own use.
- Stagger dining times in shared dining rooms to reduce group numbers.
- Implement measures to maximise physical distancing in shared recreation areas.
- Ensure frequent and appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the facility.
- Support regular hand hygiene.
- In cases of medical treatment, implement appropriate infection control and precautions including PPE as appropriate for tasks performed.
- Communal sharing of resources should be minimised where practicable. Students should be encouraged to bring their own equipment or equipment may be allocated to individual students where possible.
- Ensure facilities have sufficient cleaning products, soap and hand sanitiser to ensure safe practices.
- Encourage good hygiene practices including regular hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitiser.
- Ensuring frequent and appropriate cleaning and disinfection of camp facilities. Cleaning must be undertaken each day of camp activity.

CASE IDENTIFICATION AND ISOLATION ARRANGEMENTS COULD INCLUDE:

- Establishing processes and procedures for isolating any cases that may arise, considering:
 - The practicality of returning home during the isolation period.
 - Local arrangements for students where it may be impractical for them to return home or where it may be undesirable due to factors such as insufficient health infrastructure in the home environment or return to a vulnerable community.
- Isolating at the camp site, which must meet expected criteria such as a single room, separation from others, and PPE for staff consistent with health advice.
- Daily screening using a questionnaire to aid early identification of symptomatic students, staff and visitors.
- Establishing processes for pathology testing of symptomatic students and staff through local GP or pathology services.

IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CLOSE CONTACTS

- There are challenges in identifying specific close contacts within a camp facility setting unless strict physical distancing measures have been implemented and adhered to. Due to the close living arrangements of a camp environment the number of students and staff identified as close contacts could be large, such as all who slept in a shared space/dormitory.
- Establish processes and procedures for quarantine of any identified close contacts considering the practicality for a student to return home for the period of the quarantine.
- Quarantine at the camp site must meet expected criteria for any close contact in the community such as a single room and separation from others.

RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

- In order to prepare for a return to school, camp sites are required to develop comprehensive risk management plans which include their response to scenarios such as single or multiple cases being identified amongst camp participants with multiple close contacts.

- Parents, legal guardians and students should agree to the terms of the Risk Management Plan before attending the camping facility.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Schools are required to develop implementation plans in the event of multiple cases within the camp site. This would include working closely with local public health authorities.