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Further easing of post-lockdown restrictions WA Public Schools Operating Guidelines: Perth and Peel regions

COVID restrictions are set to be significantly eased in Perth and Peel as planned from 12.01am, Saturday 8 May 2021. However, some restrictions remain in place until 12.01am Saturday 15 May 2021.

Schools remain open for all, and students and staff are no longer required to wear a mask.

Maintain cleaning regimes as per Phase 4 guidelines.

As at 7 May 2021.

Operating guidelines

Schools should reinforce COVID-safe behaviours, including:

- Individuals should stay home when unwell.
- Promote and practice good personal hygiene.
- Ensure physical distance of 1.5 metres between adults, where practicable.
- As per the AHPPC guidelines, promote outdoor air ventilation, where possible.

Parents are allowed on school sites; provided they:

- practice 1.5 metres between adults physical distancing, where practicable
- follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

The COVID-19 Support Team is available from Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.00pm on coronavirussupport@education.wa.edu.au ^[1] or 1800 882 345.

School activities

Are parents/carers allowed on school sites?

- Yes, providing they:
 - practice 1.5 metres physical distancing between adults, where practicable
 - follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Are visitors, service providers and therapists allowed on school site?

- Yes, providing they:
 - sign in as part of Visitors and Intruders on Public School Premises Policy^[2]
 - practice 1.5 metres physical distancing, where practicable
 - follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Are third-party providers able to use school facilities?

- Yes, provided they:
 - sign in as part of Visitors and Intruders on Public School Premises Policy^[2]
 - practice 1.5 metres physical distancing, where practicable
 - follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices
 - undertake regular cleaning of these facilities
 - follow the venue capacity limits:
 - if the event/activity is seated in its entirety, the 100% venue capacity rule applies to adult attendees
 - if the event/activity is standing only, the two square metre per adult rule applies; or
 - if the event/activity is standing AND seated, the two square metre per adult rule applies.
- Third-party providers should develop and implement COVID-safe plans.

Are before and after school care (Out-of-School Hours Care) able to open on school sites?

- Yes.

Are schools required to use the SafeWA^[3] app?

- No, however, all visitors to school sites must sign in as per the Visitors and Intruders on Public School Premises Policy^[2].

- Schools must be able to provide contact tracing information if requested by WA Health.
- If schools are considering implementing the [SafeWA](#) ^[3] app, they are encouraged to consult with their school boards/councils and community prior to implementation.

Can camps proceed?

- Yes.
- Parents are permitted to attend camps.
- Ensure external provider conditions are met.
- 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.

Can school excursions go ahead?

- Yes, provided external provider conditions are met.

Can interschool activities go ahead?

- Yes, providing external provider conditions are met if held off-site.
- Spectators are permitted, providing they follow Face Covering Directions (No 5) and venue capacity limits:
 - For seated events, the number of attendees must not exceed 100% of the venue seating capacity.
 - One adult per two square metres applies to all activities where any attendees are not seated.

Can student work placements, simulated work placements and work experience proceed?

- Yes provided external provider conditions are met.

Can school balls proceed?

- School balls can resume.
- Follow the COVID-Safe Plan of the venue.

Are major sporting or music events permitted?

- Major sporting or music events can resume.

- Follow the COVID-Safe Plan of the external venue.
- Secondary school students, staff and adult spectators must comply with Safe Transition for Western Australia Directions (No 4) and Face Covering Directions (No 5).
- Spectators are permitted, providing they follow the venue capacity limits:
 - If the event/activity is seated in its entirety, the 100% venue capacity rule applies to adult attendees
 - One adult per two square metres applies to all activities where any attendees are not seated.

Are swimming pools open and can swimming programs run?

- Yes, swimming pools can operate and Interm swimming programs can go ahead, subject to external provider conditions being met.
- Follow the COVID-Safe Plan of the venue.
- Spectators may attend following the venue capacity limits:
 - For seated events, the number of attendees must not exceed 100% of the venue seating capacity.
 - One adult per two square metres applies to all activities where any attendees are not seated.

Can school canteens operate?

- Yes school canteens can open.
- Regular cleaning should be undertaken.
- Schools should review and update as needed their school risk assessment procedures to include COVID-safe principles.
- School canteens may continue to be an exception from the requirement for a COVID-safe plan.

Can assemblies be held?

- Yes, assemblies may go ahead.
- Parents/carers may attend on-site school events.
- Maintain good personal hygiene and hand washing.
- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres between adults, where possible.
- Stay home if you are unwell.
- The following venue capacity limits apply:
 - if the event/activity is seated in its entirety, the 100% venue capacity rule applies to adult attendees
 - if the event/activity is standing only, the two square metre per adult rule applies
 - if the event/activity is standing AND seated, the two square metre per adult rule applies.

Are playgrounds open?

- Yes.
- Students should continue to practice good hand hygiene, with handwashing before and after play.

Are masks required on school buses in the Perth and Peel regions?

- For school owned bus services, no masks are required.
- For bus services owned by external providers, you are required to comply with their external provider conditions.

Will school faults, maintenance and building upgrades continue?

- Yes.
- Schools need to ensure that contractors have access to school sites to ensure these activities are undertaken.
- Any concerns relating to maintenance or capital works should be directed to Steven.Parry@education.wa.edu.au ^[4], your facilities manager at Program Facilities Maintenance or your local Department of Finance contact.

Health and hygiene

Does every secondary school student have to wear a mask?

- No.
- If offsite, secondary school students must comply with Face Covering Directions (No 5).

Can a student travel into an affected area (Perth or Peel) to attend school?

- Yes.

Can school students wear a mask?

- Yes, however they are not required to wear them.

Are masks required to be used in the staffroom?

- No.

Do Education Support Staff have to wear face shields or particular PPE?

- If you are required to wear PPE as part of your business as usual, then continue as normal. There are no additional requirements.

Are there guidelines for mask disposal?

- Guidelines can be found on the [healthywa.wa.gov.au](https://www.health.wa.gov.au) ^[5] website.
- To safely remove any type of face mask; practise hand hygiene, remove the mask and then perform hand hygiene again.
- Single use masks must be placed into a rubbish bin at the point of removal.
- Fabric masks that are reusable, should be washed after every use, or when wet or visibly dirty.

How often should masks be changed?

- Reusable cloth masks should be changed at least daily.
- Disposable masks are single use and should be changed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Masks should be replaced if they become damaged, wet or dirty.

Can medically vulnerable and/or immune-compromised students attend school?

- Yes. As per [AHPPC guidelines](#) ^[6] (3 February 2021), with COVID-19 safe planning and procedures in place and health systems ready to quickly identify and respond to cases, schools remain safe places.

Can I spread the virus if I have received a COVID-19 vaccine?

- No. As per Health advice, there is no viral shedding from the vaccines and no virus is used in the vaccines. Refer to the [HealthyWA website](#) ^[7] for more information.

Workforce and leave

Can medically vulnerable and/or immune-compromised staff attend school?

- Yes. As per the AHPPC guidelines (3 February 2021), with COVID-19 safe planning and procedures in place and health systems ready to quickly identify and respond to cases, schools remain safe places.

Can staff training or professional learning go ahead?

- Yes, providing participants and presenters follow external provider conditions.

What leave does a staff member request if they are self-quarantining due to being at an exposure site?

- All leave requests should be discussed with your line manager.
- Leave enquires are to be directed to LabourRelations.Queries@education.wa.edu.au ^[8].

Residential and boarding facilities

Can students return to boarding and residential facilities?

- Yes.

Do residential/boarding facilities need to maintain contact registers?

- Yes. Boarding schools or residential colleges are required to maintain contact registers for the Department of Health for COVID-19 contact tracing.
- Usual practices for residents to sign in continue to apply.

What are the cleaning and hygiene requirements for residential and boarding facilities?

- As per [AHPPC advice](#) ^[9], 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.
- Good hygiene practices should be maintained.
- Cleaning requirements remain in place as per Phase 4 requirements.

For specific boarding and residential questions, please contact the COVID support team on Ph: 1800 882 345 or email CoronaVirusSupport@education.wa.edu.au ^[10].

This information is provided by [Recovery Coordination](#) ^[11]

This information can be found in these topics [COVID - Health and hygiene](#) ^[12], [COVID - Workforce](#) ^[13], [COVID - Curriculum and learning](#) ^[14], [COVID - Principal / line manager support and advice](#) ^[15], [COVID - School operations](#) ^[16]

Contact information

Coronavirus support for principals and senior staff

Telephone

Office: 1800 882 345

Internet

Email ^[1]

Note

Education support for principals and senior staff only. All health queries should be referred to the Department of Health.

Referenced links

1. <mailto:coronavirussupport@education.wa.edu.au>
2. <http://det.wa.edu.au/policies/detcms/policy-planning-and-accountability/policies-framework/policies/visitors-and-intruders-on-public-school-premises.en?cat-id=3458013>
3. <https://safewa.health.wa.gov.au/>
4. <mailto:Steven.Parry@education.wa.edu.au>
5. https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/Face-masks
6. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-updated-statement-on-minimising-the-potential-risk-of-covid-19-transmission-in-schools>
7. https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-vaccine/FAQs
8. <mailto:LabourRelations.Queries@education.wa.edu.au>
9. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-risk-management-for-re-opening-boarding-schools-and-school-based-residential-colleges>
10. <mailto:CoronaVirusSupport@education.wa.edu.au>
11. <https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/-/recovery-coordination>
12. <https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/services/browse/-/categories/business-topic/covid-health-and-hygiene>
13. <https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/services/browse/-/categories/business-topic/covid-workforce>
14. <https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/services/browse/-/categories/business-topic/covid-curriculum-and-learning>
15. <https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/services/browse/-/categories/business-topic/covid-principal/-line-manager-support-and-advice>
16. <https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/services/browse/-/categories/business-topic/covid-school-operations>