

## WA Public Schools Operating Guidelines: Perth and Peel region lockdown

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As at 29 June 2021

From 12.01am on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 all persons who live in the Perth metropolitan area and Peel region entered a minimum four-day lockdown to limit any potential spread of COVID-19.

Schools will be open for all students, with the exception of Connolly Primary School, Burbridge School and Koondoola Primary School. These schools have been identified as exposure sites by the Department of Health and remain closed while testing of close and casual contacts is completed.

Masks are required to be worn by all staff and secondary school students at all times, unless

- the person has a physical, developmental or mental illness, injury, condition or disability which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable;
- communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication;
- the person is engaged in swimming as a form of physical exercise;
- the person is participating in physical education classes and organised sport; or
- the person is consuming food, drink or medicine provided that they are seated at the time.

Teaching staff are permitted to remove their mask while teaching to help with clear communication and instruction.

Primary school students are not required to wear masks while attending school.

Schools should reinforce COVID-safe behaviours, including:

- mask wearing where required;
- individuals should stay home when unwell;
- promote and practise good personal hygiene;
- ensure physical distance of 1.5 metres between adults, where practicable;
- venue capacity is limited to 2 square metres per adult;
- maintain regular cleaning regimes as per Phase 4 cleaning guidelines; and
- as per the AHPPC guidelines, promote outdoor air ventilation, where possible.

Parents are allowed on school sites for pick up and drop off purposes only, however they must:

- wear a mask as per the face covering directions;
- practice 1.5 metres between adults physical distancing, where practicable;
- adhere to the 2 square metre per adult venue capacity rule; and
- follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Schools should avoid or defer planned events until Term 3, such as:

- camps;
- excursions and incursions;
- interschool sports carnivals;
- end of term events or assemblies.
- parent teacher meetings;
- staff training;
- on-site meetings;
- student work placements, simulate work placements and work experience; and
- school photos.

Playgrounds can be open with good hand hygiene before and after use.

Visitors are allowed on school sites only for essential purposes, for example, critical maintenance, deliveries of food and essential supplies, however they must sign in as part of *Visitors and Intruders on Public School Premises Policy* and follow COVID-safe behaviours.

Therapists are allowed on school sites for essential purposes only, for example compassionate, and medical reasons, however they must sign in as part of *Visitors and Intruders on Public School Premises Policy* and follow COVID-safe behaviours.

Third parties can use school premises only for essential purposes as outlined and in accordance with the State Directions and when the school is able to ensure that the participants follow COVID-safe behaviours.

Swimming pools are to close and swimming programs are to be deferred until Term 3.

### **Residential Colleges**

Students and staff are not required to wear a mask within the residential boarding facility.

Students are able to leave their residential facility within the Perth/Peel region at the end of Term 2 to return to their home outside of the Perth/Peel region but must continue to wear face masks and comply with all other lockdown requirements.

Students staying in a residential facility outside of the Perth/Peel region are able to leave their residential facility and return to their home Perth/Peel region at the end of Term 2, but will then be subject to wearing face masks and all other lockdown requirements.

### **Travel**

Only essential travel is permitted, including:

- Obtaining or providing essential goods or services that cannot be accessed in your region
- Working if you are an essential worker
- For specific care, medical reasons and compassionate reasons
- Leaving for an emergency purpose.

Anyone who has been in Perth or Peel areas since 12.01pm Sunday, 27 June 2021 must follow the mask restrictions.

Travel to remote Aboriginal communities remains restricted.

## FAQs

### School activities

#### What activities can go ahead?

- All school activities should be postponed.

#### Are parents/carers allowed on school sites for drop-off and pick up?

Parents are allowed on school sites for pick up and drop off purposes only.

They must:

- wear a mask at all times (as per the face covering directions),
- practice 1.5 metres between adults physical distancing, where practicable;
- adhere to the 2 square metres per adult venue capacity rule; and
- follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

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

Visitors are allowed on school sites only for essential purposes (e.g. critical maintenance, deliveries of food and essential supplies); however, they must:

- sign in as part of *Visitors and Intruders on Public School Premises Policy*;
- Wear a mask at all times;
- practice 1.5 metres between adults physical distancing, where practicable;
- venue capacity of 2 square metres per adult applies; and
- follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

#### Are third-party providers able to use school facilities?

Third parties can use school premises only for essential purposes as outlined and in accordance with the State Directions and when the school is able to ensure that they:

- Maintain physical distance of 1.5 metres between adults, where practicable.
- Wear a mask at all times.
- Follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.
- Follow contact registration requirements.
- Undertake regular cleaning of these facilities
- Adhere to the venue capacity limits.
- Adhere to applicable interim restrictions for Perth and Peel.

Third-party providers should develop and implement COVIDSafe 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](#) app?

- No.
- All visitors to school sites must sign-in as per the *Visitors and Intruders on Public School Premises Policy*. School premises are not required to maintain a contact register, however, they may choose to do so. As this will be a school-based decision, we encourage schools to consult with their school boards and community prior to implementing the SafeWA app.

#### Can camps proceed?

- No

**Can school excursions go ahead?**

- No

**Can interschool activities go ahead?**

- No

**Can school balls proceed?**

- No.
- School balls are deferred until Term 3.

**Are major sporting or music events permitted?**

- No

**Are swimming pools open and can swimming programs run?**

- No

**Can school canteens operate?**

School canteens can open.

- Regular cleaning 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?**

- No

**Are playgrounds open?**

- Playgrounds can be open.
- Cleaning once per week, with handwashing before and after use.
- Students in Years 7 to 12 must wear a mask when playing.

**What restrictions will apply to School Bus Services operating in the Perth and Peel regions?**

- All school bus drivers and bus aides will wear a mask as per the face covering directions.
- All secondary school students must wear a mask on the bus as per the face covering directions.
- For education support services, discretion will be applied where, for a medical or behavioural reason due to their disability, there may be an exemption from wearing a mask. If required, parents will need to discuss any matters relating to masks with their school bus operator.

**Do 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.
- Contractors who come to site are expected to comply with current restrictions for Perth and Peel regions.
- Any concerns relating to maintenance or capital works should be directed to [Steven.Parry@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Steven.Parry@education.wa.edu.au), your facilities manager at Program Facilities Maintenance or your local Department of Finance contact.

**Health and hygiene****Are secondary school students expected to bring their own mask?**

- Yes. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for ensuring they have a mask.
- Schools will maintain additional supplies for those students who need them.
- If a regional school requires masks and cannot source them through the normal procurement process, they can contact their regional education office or email [buying@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:buying@education.wa.edu.au).

**Does every secondary school student have to wear a mask?**

- Yes, at all times, unless:
  - the person has a physical, developmental or mental illness, injury, condition or disability which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable;
  - the person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication;
  - engaged in strenuous or vigorous exercise;
  - the person is consuming food, drink or medicine, provided that they are seated at the time.
- Exceptions are listed in the *Outbreak restrictions (Level 3) Directions*.

**What do we do if a secondary school student refuses to wear a mask?**

- Schools are expected to take a positive and proactive approach in promoting the wearing of masks.
- Schools should discuss individual circumstances with families and students in regard to wearing masks.

**What if a student's mask is dirty or lost?**

- Schools have a supply of disposable and reusable masks should students need them.
- Schools should manage the distribution of masks to students in these circumstances.

**Can primary school students wear a mask?**

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

**Are masks required to be used in the staffroom?**

- Yes, unless the person is consuming food, drink or medicine, provided that they are seated at the time, subject to exceptions in the *Outbreak restrictions (Level 3) Directions*.

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

- No, however, all staff are required to wear masks, subject to exceptions in the *Outbreak restrictions (Level 3) Directions*.
- If you are required to wear PPE as part of your business as usual, then continue as normal. There are no additional requirements.

**Do physical education teachers need to wear a mask while teaching?**

- No.

**Are there guidelines for mask disposal?**

- Guidelines can be found on the [healthywa.wa.gov.au](https://www.health.wa.gov.au) 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](#) (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.

## Teaching, learning and reporting arrangements

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

- No
- Student work placements, simulated work placements and work experience should be postponed until Term 3

### **What attendance code do we use if a student does not attend school?**

- Reasonable absence (R) code
- Schools are open for learning and students are expected to attend.

## 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.
- Staff members must attend work unless you have an exemption arrangement with your Principal.

### **What are the guidelines for staff who have medical grounds for not wearing a mask?**

- Refer to the exceptions outlined in the *Outbreak restrictions (Level 3) Directions*.

### **Can staff training or professional learning go ahead?**

No

### **Can staff travel to an affected area (Perth or Peel) to work at a school?**

- Yes.
- Evidence required e.g. name badge
- Once staff have travelled to the Perth or Peel region and are returning home, they will need to continue to adhere to the Perth and Peel restrictions.
- Regional travel restrictions have been removed but restrictions to some remote Aboriginal communities remain in place.

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

- Staff should apply for COVID-19 leave.
- Staff should follow health advice regarding testing and self-quarantining requirements.

### **Do staff residing in regions that don't require masks need to wear them if they work at a school in affected areas (Perth or Peel)?**

- Yes, subject to exceptions in the *Outbreak restrictions (Level 3) Directions*.

### **Do staff who reside in an affected area (Perth or Peel) need to wear masks if they work at a school in a region which does not require them?**

- Yes, providing they have been in an affected area on or after 12.01pm Sunday, 27 June 2021, subject to exceptions in the *Outbreak restrictions (Level 3) Directions*.

## Residential and boarding facilities

### Can students return to boarding and residential facilities?

- Yes.

### Are boarding or residential students required to wear a mask?

- Secondary school students are required to wear masks while attending school subject to exceptions in the [Outbreak restrictions \(Level 3\) Directions](#).
- Boarding/residential students and staff who reside onsite are not required to wear a mask in the boarding or residential facility.
- If a staff member is onsite but does not live onsite, they will be required to wear a mask.

### What are the requirements for students that leave residential facilities out of Perth/Peel region? E.g. returning home

- Students must continue to wear face masks and comply with all other lockdown requirements, as per the existing directions.
- Students staying in a residential facility outside of the Perth/Peel region are able to leave their residential facility and return to their home Perth/Peel region at the end of Term 2, but will then be subject to wearing face masks and all other lockdown requirements.

### 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](#), 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](mailto:CoronaVirusSupport@education.wa.edu.au).