



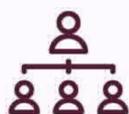
Phase 5

Operating Guidelines for Western Australian Public Schools and Residential Facilities

Schools are safe and open for learning

In line with the latest Health advice, current arrangements have been reviewed with the following changes from Wednesday, 23 June 2021:

- Venue capacity rule of two square metres per adult no longer applies.
- Physical distancing of 1.5 metres between adults should be maintained, where possible.



WA Public School Attendance

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools encourages all students to attend school, including those with health conditions.

Students who are unwell should stay at home and will be marked as an 'N' code when parents/carers notify the school, as per normal process.

- Any unexplained absences will be recorded as a 'U' code (unexplained absence – cause not yet established) and will be followed up by the school.
- Schools should use their current attendance strategies and draw on the expertise and experience of student services staff, badged attendance officers, Chaplains, School Psychology Services and AIEOs, as well as their existing program partners and service providers (such as PCYC, Clontarf and Aboriginal Girl's Program) to re-engage students.
- Principals will work with Directors of Education to provide appropriate support for students who require re-engagement and their families. This will include working with other agencies.



School activities

From Wednesday, 23 June date, based on Health advice, the following applies:

All [school activities](#) may operate with the ongoing promotion and practise of good hygiene principles (see Health, Hygiene and Cleaning section below), physical distancing of 1.5 metres between adults, where possible.



Health, hygiene and cleaning

Arrangements continue to reduce direct contact, enhance personal hygiene practices, and strengthen cleaning regimes in schools.

Each person has a responsibility to protect themselves and others. This is achieved through the ongoing promotion of the following good hygiene principles and practices:

- adults maintain 1.5 metres distance from other adults, where possible;
- staff, students and parents must stay home when sick;
- avoiding unnecessary physical contact and physical greetings (e.g. handshakes, hugs etc.);
- washing hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or an alcohol based sanitiser;
- covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, using a flexed elbow or tissue; and
- disposing of tissues appropriately.

Cleaning for all schools:

- Cleaning guidelines are based on, and continuously reviewed in line with, advice from the Department of Health.
- Cleaning of high-touch surfaces, including classrooms, meeting rooms and washroom/toilets, should be maintained on a daily basis, but is not required throughout the school day.
- Current fixed-term cleaning contracts must be honoured with staff undertaking other cleaning duties as per the cleaning guidelines.
- Cleaning of playgrounds and play equipment can be scaled back from daily cleaning, but should be cleaned once a week. Hand hygiene before and after use of equipment should be encouraged.
- Bin waste removal after school daily.
- Computer keyboards and mice, printers, photocopiers and telephones cleaned once a day.

Cleaning for residential facilities:

All residential facilities will have cleaning staff rostered to work across Monday to Sunday during the day.

Toilet areas, showers and washroom

- Student toilets cleaned once per day.
- Clean showers once per day between morning and evening use.
- Provide appropriate cleaning products in bathrooms for students to use should they wish to clean showers between each use where the facility is shared.

Kitchens

- Clean all high contact surfaces and food preparation surfaces with a detergent or food safe disinfectant-based product at the end of each meal.
- Clean servery areas and serving utensils after each meal.

Dining room

- Clean used dining tables and chairs with a detergent or disinfectant-based product after each meal/sitting.

Dormitory common areas

- Clean all high contact surfaces in common areas with a detergent or disinfectant based product once per day.

Bedrooms

- Students provided with appropriate cleaning products to clean surfaces in their personal rooms.

Transport

- Hand sanitiser and cleaning kit in each vehicle for staff to use.

Other

- Computer keyboards and mice, printers, photocopiers and telephones cleaned once a day.

Personal hygiene

- Arrangements are in place for regular and thorough hand-washing for students and staff.
- Supplies of soap and other cleaning agents are available for all schools. The Department will continue to support any school that experiences supply issues.
- [Posters](#) and visible messaging regarding handwashing and cough-sneeze hygiene should be displayed in schools.

Vulnerable populations including those who are immune-compromised

- As the current level of COVID-19 cases is low with no community spread in Western Australia, people, even those at higher risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19, can continue attending or return to school with appropriate precautions in place.
- Precautions include the monitoring of public health advice, regular cleaning at schools, continued physical distancing where possible, use of hand and respiratory hygiene, and staying home if unwell.



Data

To assist in the review of these guidelines, particular workforce and student data will be required. Wherever possible this data will be sourced centrally, however there may be information required from schools. Schools will be informed on how data will be collated and the frequency of data required.