



# Phase 4

## Operating Guidelines for Western Australian Public Schools

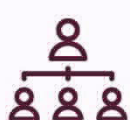
*This document has been prepared for use by WA Public Schools and is provided to Independent Schools for their information and use in decision-making processes.*

*This document is uncontrolled and some information relating specifically to Department of Education operational processes has been removed prior to distribution.*

## Schools are safe and open for learning

In line with the latest Health advice, current Term 2 arrangements have been reviewed with the following changes from Week 10, Monday 29 June 2020:

- All students are expected to attend school, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.
- This means students are either:
  - at school;
  - have a medical referral to learn from home;
  - recorded as absent if they do not attend; or
  - students who are unwell should stay home.
- If a student does not attend school without a medical reason, they will be marked as absent and will not be provided with a learning program.
- Parents/carers and visitors may access school sites to attend meetings and for drop off and pick up purposes. Physical distancing of one adult per two square metres and good hygiene practices should apply.



### Attendance

Since Monday 18 May 2020, it has been expected that all students attend school, except those medically referred to learn from home or those who are unwell.



### School activities

From Monday 29 June, based on Health advice, the following applies:

- Canteens can operate ensuring they maintain physical distancing requirements of one person per two square metres.
- Library access should be managed to ensure supervisors/staff maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres and good hygiene practices are in place.

- Interschool activities can occur. Encourage good hygiene practices including handwashing before and after activities. Supervisors/staff should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres where practicable.
- Contact sport and training can occur. Equipment may be shared, however schools should ensure equipment is cleaned regularly, ie. after use. Encourage good hygiene practices including handwashing before and after sport.
- Camps can occur, however venue capacity should not be exceeded (no longer limited to 100 pax). Schools should follow Department excursion policies and AHPPC advice to develop mitigations that lower the risk of transmission and promote good health and hygiene. Supervisors/staff should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres. Schools must also ensure camp providers comply with WA COVID-19 Health guidelines.
- Work placements can occur. Schools should conduct work placement risk assessments and ensure employers comply with WA COVID-19 Health guidelines.
- Choir can occur. Good hygiene practices including handwashing before and after lessons should apply. Supervisors/staff should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres.
- Incursions and excursions can occur. Supervisors/staff should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres.
- Major events held at off-site venues such as school balls, music concerts and sporting events can occur. Maximum numbers will be determined by the two square metre per person rule.
- Assemblies and other school community events can occur. Adult visitors and staff should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres.
- Examinations can occur. Supervisors/staff should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres and good hygiene practices should be applied.
- School, therapy and public swimming pools are open. Good hygiene practices including handwashing before and after lessons should apply. Supervisors/staff should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres.
- P&C, School Board/Council and staff meetings can occur when adhering to physical distancing of two square metres per person and regular cleaning requirements.
- Parent/carer meetings can occur. Adults should maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres and good hygiene practices should be applied.
- Visitors and third-party providers on school sites can occur. Regular cleaning of used areas and minimising contact with the broader school population should apply. Visitors on school sites should sign in and maintain physical distancing of one person per two square metres.

## **Reporting to parents Semester 1**

- School systems/sectors across the country have been offered flexibilities in relation to reporting requirements for Semester 1, 2020.

- There is no requirement to report an A – E grade or equivalent 5-point scale.



## Health, hygiene and cleaning

Arrangements for Term 2 continue with regard to safety, to reduce direct contact, enhance personal hygiene practices, and strengthen cleaning regimes in schools. This arrangement will need to continue in Term 3.

Cleaning:

- Cleaning guidelines are based on, and continuously reviewed in line with, advice from the Department of Health.
- Playgrounds are open and play equipment should be cleaned daily.

Students and staff may consider the following guidelines to reduce contact:

- Avoid direct physical contact (handshakes, hugs, etc.).
- Utilise staggered start and break times.
- Use alternative locations within the school.
- Unwell staff or students to remain at home.
- Combine or split year groups and classes as appropriate.
- Use alternative locations within the school boundaries to deliver classes.

Personal hygiene:

- Arrangements are in place for regular and thorough hand-washing for students and staff.
- [Posters](#) and visible messaging regarding handwashing and cough-sneeze hygiene should be displayed in schools.

Staff who are considered to be vulnerable populations in the [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) guidelines](#) include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions;
- people 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions;
- people 70 years and older; and
- people with compromised immune systems as determined by the Department of Health.

Staff who fall into these criteria may need alternative working arrangements. These arrangements should be developed and agreed by the Principal and the staff member based on a risk assessment for the staff member and consideration of the available options to manage those individual circumstances.

When making decisions on applying this guidance the following should be considered:

- The AHPPC definition of vulnerable populations is based on age and [underlying medical conditions](#) that are limited and considered relatively serious.
- The AHPPC advises that there is a relatively low risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in schools.

## Maximising the use of physical space

Schools should maximise the use of indoor and outdoor spaces to physically distance students where practicable. This may include conducting lessons outdoors or in environments with enhanced ventilation.