



BROOKFIELD – EXPEDITIONS - MAPLETON – NOOSA - TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN

COVID Safe Plan for Outdoor Education Activities – QCCC Mapleton/Triballink, Noosa Outdoor Education Centre and Expeditions:

QCCC's Outdoor Education Activities acknowledge the Industry Plans for Outdoor Education and Outdoor Recreation and reference the "Return to Play" Guidelines. The guiding protocols of this plan are:

- Instruct everyone to practise good hygiene by frequently cleaning their hands.
- Instruct participants to practise good hygiene including no touching of eyes, nose or mouth and no spitting or clearing nasal/respiratory secretions in activity settings.
- Implement measures to limit contact between participants including eliminating handshakes, high fives, huddles and celebrations.
- Provide hand washing facilities including clean running water, liquid soap, paper towels. If hand washing facilities are not readily available, provide an appropriate alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Reduce the sharing of equipment and tools and establish cleaning protocols (clean/sanitise equipment before, during and after sessions, as required).
- Establish a protocol to ensure that personal protective equipment (medical masks etc) is not shared during activity sessions.
- Establish a protocol to ensure that clothing items are not shared, with participants and workers to arrange laundry of their own clothing.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all activities adjusted to account for COVID-19 Safety. Measures include:

- If it is identified that the risk of COVID-19 infection is high and difficult to be controlled, then the activity may be removed from activity selection.
- Where the risk of infection can be managed with the provision of an appropriate sanitising process (adhering to equipment manufacturer guidelines and/or industry best practice guidance) and a modification to SOPs, then updated procedures will be implemented.
- Group Leaders provided with COVID SAFE SOPs for activities and assessment of compliance included in the normal observation and inspection processes for staff.
- Sanitising of point of contact (eg hands, feet etc) both before and after contact with activity equipment (eg harnesses, helmets, and ropes) where appropriate.
- Sanitise activity equipment between groups (at least 60% alcohol) where appropriate.
- School-aged students may exceed the base occupant density requirements as directed by Queensland Health.

Recent comments from the Queensland Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeanette Young, regarding Outdoor Activities were: *"Outdoors is the safest place to be and we have got the best climate in Australia and the world in terms of living our lives outdoors ... wherever possible I strongly recommend people move their lives as much as possible outdoors."*

Updated: 13th November 2020 to reflect Outdoor Education & Outdoor Recreation Industry Plans Updates

Activity Selection:

The following activities will generally not be offered, especially when multiple groups are onsite and Zone systems are in place, until further advised (as per gradual relaxing of COVID restrictions):

- Orienteering;
- Environmental Studies will only be offered by Triballink.

General Sanitisation processes:

Sanitisation processes for QCCC activities and equipment are broadly as follows (as per manufacturer recommendations safety and disinfection):

- Hand sanitisation measures (eg hand sanitiser bottles and anti-bacterial wipes) provided at each activity area and each Group Leader to have their own equipment kit for sanitisation;
- During activities and where successive activities are provided to the same group booking activity participants will be observed to sanitise their hands before and after the session.
- In certain circumstances participants may be asked to sanitise their hands during the session before and after touching specific equipment.
- Between use of activities by different group bookings (eg on changeover days or where different groups rotate through activities) and where possible the following additional sanitising will be implemented, either by QCCC staff, or QCCC staff supervising leaving participants:
 - Hard surfaces (eg helmets): Spraying and/or wiping down with COVID Safe Disinfecting product;
 - Textile/plastic products (e.g. ropes, slings, harnesses, helmet straps): Apply a mild spray detergent with a 70% to 100% isopropanol solution.
- Where feasible (minimum of a quarterly basis, between school terms) a more thorough clean of harnesses will be conducted by washing in lukewarm water (30°C max) with a mild detergent with max PH 8 (e.g. Marseille soap) added to water, rinse and leave to dry naturally in a ventilated environment, away from direct sunlight or heat sources. It is possible to wash by hand or in the washing machine, using a wool/delicates programmed at a low spin cycle (< 400 rpm). In case of products that entail metal components or if the need to wash simple metal products simultaneously arises, it is necessary to insert the products in a mesh bag and/or wash at full load to avoid damaging the machine.
- Manufacturers have conducted numerous tests on the ongoing veracity and safety of equipment subjected to these cleaning protocols and concluded they could not detect any significant loss of strength for all tested products under these conditions.

Specific sanitising processes:

- Archery: Participants may be encouraged to use hand sanitiser immediately before and after individual use of bow and arrows.
- Bush Skills: Provision of doughboys discontinued from activity until further advised.
- Canoeing: QCCC staff to supervise participants to spray and/or wipe paddle handles and canoe edges prior to use and at the conclusion of the session.
- Orienteering (when able to be offered when only one group is onsite): QCCC/Provider staff to supervise participants to spray and/or wipe equipment prior to use and at the end of the

session. Maps may be provided as a new paper print each session or as laminate versions which will be sprayed and/or wiped with disinfectant at the conclusion of each session.

COVID SAFE Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) – Stage Five and Onwards Requirements:

QCCC SOPs include reference to the following additional Operating Procedures and staff will be inducted into these additional practices before the commencement of activities:

- Group organisers encouraged to ensure participants are assigned to individual activity groups for the duration of camp and keep records of the names in each individual activity group. Groups must remain constant, no swapping between groups. This will be requested in information sent to group organisers prior to camp;
- QCCC will maintain usual records of individual instructors assigned to each activity group for 56 days and, where possible, assign individual instructors to a group for the duration of their camp.
- Instructors will meet their group at their designated accommodation zone and lead them out to their assigned activity to ensure no co-mingling between groups from different bookings.
- Every activity session will commence with a reminder by the instructor of COVID Protocols:
 - Sanitise hands at commencement of session;
 - Sanitise hands when instructed by QCCC staff or supervising teacher;
 - Sanitise hands after coughing or sneezing, which should be done into the sleeve or elbow;
 - Observe social distancing as much as practical. (School-aged students may exceed the base occupant density requirements as directed by Queensland Health.)
- Where practical instructors will maintain physical distancing of 1.5m from participants, except where they are required to ensure the safety of a participant or equipment used in the activity. Where necessary, providing safe activity experience will take precedence over physical distancing.
- Each activity will occur within a defined area reserved for individual groups and observe a “base density” requirement of 2 square metres per person (outdoors) or 4 square metres per person (indoors), and physical distancing (>1.5 metres).
- The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has provided guidance that physical distancing (i.e. 4sqm per person in an enclosed space) is not necessary for school-aged children. School-aged children may exceed the base occupant density requirements as directed by Queensland Health, however, should maintain physical distancing protocols where possible.
- There should always be a minimum of five metres separation between any two individual activity groups during activity sessions.
- Equipment cannot be shared between individual activity areas.
- Avoid participant interactions including team huddles, handshakes and high fives.
- Activities requiring participants to be in close proximity (eg spotting for a participant on low ropes or sharing a two-person canoe) is permitted in the activity area and only as required during the activity.
- Only QCCC instructors should contact/move moveable activity equipment (eg marker cones etc)
- Any participant indicating symptoms of unwellness will be removed from the group and directed (accompanied if necessary) to the quarantine zone established at the venue.