



Compendium of Government advice to manage Covid on camp

We have encountered some confusion about the management of Covid on camp programs. This is a compendium of the Government requirements for managing Covid on camp and some suggestions of best practice from our observations of hosting multiple camps since the resumption of school camps on 5th March 2022.

Operating status of venues:

Outdoor Education Venues are considered Short-Term Accommodation. There are currently no “restricted businesses” in Queensland since the [Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status Direction \(No. 4\)](#). Was revoked on 14th April 2022. Therefore there are no public health directions (eg occupant density etc) applicable to short-term accommodation providers.

For school camps Education Queensland’s advice for school camps is as follows:

At a non-departmental facility

Excursions and camps are permitted at venues with completed [COVID Safe Event Checklist for restrictive businesses](#).

Offsite premises must adhere to [Queensland’s COVID Safe Future roadmap \(PDF, 281KB\)](#).

The Covid Safe Event Checklist ceased to be a legal document when the Public Health and Social Measures Direction was revoked on 14th April 2022. However, our venues continue to observe the requirements of the Checklist when hosting school groups. When hosting school groups QCCC venues will also comply with the [COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Workers in a high-risk setting Direction \(No. 2\)](#) and will continue to use the QLD Check-In app to screen vaccination status.

Organising camp:

Education Queensland’s advice regarding selection of venue and accommodation arrangements is as follows:

Accommodation

As each camp facility will be unique in its layout and configuration, planning should consider the sleeping arrangements for staff and students and the likelihood of individuals being deemed a close contact should a confirmed case of COVID-19 be identified.

Cohorting of students should occur where possible, and the school must ensure there are records of which students shared accommodation and which staff shared accommodation to enable identification of close contacts.

QCCC staff can assist with your camp planning:

1. All our health management plans and advice regarding Covid management on camp are available for download at our designated [Covid Info Page on our website](#).
2. Where multiple groups are onsite QCCC will take active logistical measures to prevent co-mingling between different school groups.

The single most important factor in limiting the impact of Covid on camp is to ensure symptomatic guests do not attend, and this message cannot be reinforced enough with your group, and parents of students attending camp.

First morning of camp:

Education Queensland is encouraging the use of RAT testing on the first morning of camp to identify Covid positive guests before they get on the bus for camp:

COVID-19 testing

Schools could consider providing a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) to families to administer before attending camps to reduce the risk of students becoming ill while away from the school site. Similarly, RATs could be provided to staff for the same purpose.

What to do if a guest starts to exhibit symptoms of Covid?

Education Queensland's advice is as follows (and is universally applied to non-school camps too):

Isolation

Anyone who develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#) while at camp must be isolated in an appropriate, supervised space.

When a student is unwell, their parent or carer will be contacted and arrangements made for the child to return home as soon as practicable.

Staff who are unwell should speak to their principal or supervisor regarding leave arrangements.

Each QCCC venue has isolation rooms and facilities for this purpose.

Education Queensland's advice regarding testing of symptomatic students/staff is as follows:

If students or staff develop COVID-19 symptoms while at camp, they should be provided with a RAT to be administered at home.

However, most schools are choosing to administer RATs on camp (with parental permission) to determine the Covid status of students/staff before requiring they return home.

Who is a close contact if someone tests positive?

There appears to be some confusion about who is a close contact of a confirmed Covid positive case. It is not the entire camp/event. Close contacts are determined by sleeping arrangements. This is consistent with the [Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Management of Close Contacts Direction \(No. 6\)](#).

Household-like contact means, except in exceptional circumstances determined by the Chief Health Officer, a person who has spent more than four hours with the **diagnosed person** in a house or other **place of accommodation**, such as a residential aged care facility, disability accommodation, hospital or similar setting, unless the person has been in a separate part of the house, **place of accommodation**, that has a separate point of entry, no shared common areas, where the person does not share that area for more than four hours, and the person has no contact or interaction with the **diagnosed person** for more than four hours.

*Example: a person in a self-contained unit with a separate point of entry and access to shared common areas for less than four hours is not a **household-like contact** of a **diagnosed person** in another unit within a larger place of accommodation, such as a unit in mining camp accommodation.*

Education Queensland's interpretation of these arrangements for the determination of close contacts is as follows:

Close contacts

Similar to the [state school residential boarding school guidelines](#), staff and students attending a camp may be considered a close contact if they shared sleeping quarters with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in any of the following conditions:

- an enclosed bedroom, e.g. twin room
- a cubicle and adjacent cubicles where rooms are partitioned and the partitions do not create separate rooms
- 2 adjacent beds on either side of the confirmed case in an open dormitory.

Staff and students who were not accommodated overnight in any of the above conditions will not be considered a close contact.

Anyone who is deemed a close contact must follow Queensland Health directions.

Students who are not deemed to be a close contact can continue attending the camp and then return to school as usual.

From 6pm on Thursday 28th April the Queensland Health directions for close contacts are:

From 6pm AEST Thursday 28 April 2022, there will be no quarantine requirements for close contacts as long as they:

- do not have COVID-19 symptoms
- test negative every second day for a week from the day of becoming a close contact (day 0, 2, 4 and 6). A self-test using a RAT kit will be allowed, testing does not need to occur at a testing clinic.
- wear a mask outside of home for 7 days
- do not visit any vulnerable settings (hospitals, residential aged care facilities, disability accommodation services, corrective services facilities and detention centres) for 7 days
- let their employer know they are a close contact, and work from home if possible.

The application of this advice is to guests staying in the same bedroom/tent as the confirmed Covid positive guest on the night immediately prior to the positive test.

Further, people who have previously tested positive for Covid are not considered close contacts for a 12-week period after concluding their quarantine period, and can continue on camp.

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In the 12 weeks after ending isolation

You are unlikely to get COVID-19 again in the 12 weeks after completing isolation. You are considered a "cleared case" for 12 weeks after your isolation ends.

During this time, if you get COVID-19 symptoms again, you do not need to get tested.

During those 12 weeks, if someone else in your house gets COVID-19, you are not considered a close contact, and you do not need to get tested or go into quarantine.

Please do not hesitate to contact the administration staff at each of our venues if you have more questions or have need of resources to assist with the organisation of your event.

QCCC Contact Page: <https://www.qccc.org.au/contact-us/>

QCCC Covid Information Page: <https://www.qccc.org.au/home/covid19-info/>