



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 Was revoked on 14th April 2022.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:

Excursions/camps at a non-departmental facility

Offsite premises must adhere to current [Queensland public health directions](#).

If vaccination is a Queensland Health requirement to attend the venue, adult chaperones (including staff, parents, carers and volunteers) may be asked to verify their vaccination status. Venues may choose to use the [Check In Qld app](#) for this purpose.

Regarding vaccination status, Education Queensland now advise the following:

COVID-19 vaccination for workers

Workers in high-risk settings

From 1am AEST Thursday 30 June 2022, COVID-19 vaccination are no longer be required for workers in these high-risk settings:

- early childhood, primary and secondary education
- prisons, youth detention centres and watch houses
- airports

The *Covid Safe Event Checklist* ceased to be a legal document when the Public Health and Social Measures Direction was revoked on 14th April 2022.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, where appropriate, our venues will voluntarily observe the proven Covid-mitigation strategies contained in these historical strategies, including:

- Measures to encourage social distancing;
- Encouraging mask wearing amongst QCCC staff and guests;
- Arrangements such as the head-to-toe arrangements in bedrooms to maintain physical distancing of 1.5m;
- Signage and arrangements to encourage and facilitate frequent hand washing and other hygiene measures (eg water bubblers continue to be disabled, and bringing water bottles to camp encouraged).

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.

Mask Wearing:

Authorities are encouraging the use of masks in school settings. We recommend the following approach:

1. Encourage staff and students to bring and wear their mask for the bus trip to our venues as this is the bottleneck on camp where they are in a confined space together. Use of masks on the journey also means they will have their masks available to use while on camp.
2. Whilst the majority of camp is held outdoors, we encourage the use of masks by staff and students where gathered indoors (eg watching a night time video indoors), or where physical distancing is not achievable in outdoor areas.

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. 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.

Currently the Queensland Health expectations for close contacts are:

Next 7 days

If you are a close contact, for the next 7 days you must:

- wear a face mask outside of your home, including
 - indoors
 - outdoors if you can't physically distance yourself from people (other than members of your household)
- **not** visit these vulnerable and high-risk settings except for exceptional or compassionate circumstances (e.g. end of life visits), to receive care or to work there if you meet the requirements
 - an aged care facility
 - a disability care setting
 - a healthcare facility like a GP or a hospital (unless you are getting urgent medical care for yourself)
 - a correctional facility (e.g. prison) or detention centre
- follow the [Guidelines for close contacts](#).

A person who has had [COVID-19 recently](#) and finished isolation in the past 28 days is exempt from the requirements of a close contact but should still follow the guidelines.

Children under 12 do not have to wear a mask but are encouraged to where safe. Face masks, including surgical masks, are not considered safe for children under 2.

You don't have to wear a face mask if you are a person who has a physical or mental health condition which makes wearing one unsuitable.

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 (including QCCC's Cancellation Policy explained):
<https://www.qccc.org.au/home/covid19-info/>