



**Catholic  
Education**  
Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

# **COVID-19 Term 3 operating guidelines for Cairns Catholic Education**

July 2020

(adapted from COVID-19 Operating guidelines for Queensland state  
schools)



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease across the state, principals will need to make decisions that are appropriate to their local context, while aligning with Queensland Health advice. These operating guidelines are designed to support school leaders in determining what best reflects the interests of their staff, students and community, in line with the Queensland Government's [Roadmap for easing restrictions](#).

### 1.1 KEY MESSAGES

Until the pandemic has been declared as over:

- Adults in school must following the Social Distancing rules as outlined by the Queensland Government this includes staff to staff
- For student, social distancing rules, as outlined by the Queensland Government should be followed where practical and would be the norm in larger gatherings
- Frequent washing of hands and the use of hand sanitizer should be available and used regularly
- Queensland Government directives and guidelines remain the minimum standard and where possible and/or practical, standards above these minimum standards are encouraged.
- Additional cleaning and hygiene practices should continue.
- COVID 19 Plans should be updated according to Queensland Government advice or directives.
- If students are unwell and show symptoms of cold or flu, then they must not come to school or if already at school, parent or caregivers should be contacted to take the student home
- If staff are unwell or showing signs of cold or flu, then they must not come to work.

## 2 STUDENTS

All students, even those who may be 18 years or older, remain subject to the operating guidelines in place for all students.

Some medically vulnerable students may need to continue to learn at home, and normal arrangements will be in place to support these students to continue their learning.

### 2.1 STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Schools are required to monitor student attendance to ensure all students return to on-site learning. Where schools identify students who have not returned to on-site learning, it is important for schools to follow-up with parents or carers to discuss reasons the student has not returned and to implement supports to ensure attendance as per the [CES Directive for Unexplained absences](#).

Concerns about children at risk of significant harm should continue to be reported to Child Safety in accordance with Cairns Catholic Education [student protection requirements](#).

## 3 PRINCIPALS



Principals should continue to engage additional relief staff to help support any teaching staff absence, and to assist with supervision needs arising due to vulnerable staff working off-site.

Schools should use available staff and funding to support the return to regular school-based teaching and learning and to support staff workload management and wellbeing.

When determining the working arrangements for the return to school-based learning, coordination, communication and consultation mechanisms are important to ensure working arrangements are consistent with medical advice, while ensuring appropriate physical distancing between staff, parents, carers and other adult visitors is applied. The arrangements should be reviewed in conjunction with medical advice.

It is important for principals and leadership teams to actively support and manage arrangements for vulnerable staff.

## 4 STAFF

Continued staff commitment and flexibility is key to supporting COVID safe learning environments.

We repeat our ongoing advice that if you develop cold or flu like symptoms you should stay away from school and seek testing as soon as possible, in accordance with Queensland Health advice. We remind you also that [additional leave provisions](#) are in place to support you in managing health issues for yourself or family. Please be assured your school and Catholic Education Services will respond to your particular needs and concerns in a compassionate and supportive manner.

Staff who are vulnerable should discuss options with their principal to allow working from home, where possible.

The current Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice defines vulnerable people as:

- First Nation staff 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions
- people 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions. The most current definition of 'chronic medical condition' is on the Department of Health website
- people 70 years and older
- people with compromised immune systems (see Department of Health website).

Other staff who may be medically vulnerable, including those with chronic health conditions, should seek their own medical advice and provide this to their principal so appropriate arrangements can be put in place.

Staff hours of work will be consistent with the attendance arrangements already in place at each school and determined in accordance with the school's local arrangements and industrial agreements.

Business managers, administrative staff, science technicians, teacher aides and other support staff will continue to perform their roles to ensure the effective functioning of the school while practising physical distancing measures.

## 5 ATTENDANCE AND ROLL MARKING

Normal roll marking arrangements are now required.

Where a student has compromised immunity or other medical advice to remain at home or absent from the learning program, schools will continue to use Code F to record the status of children as learning at home.



Same day student absence notification remains in effect. Schools should notify parents or carers of an unexplained absence of their child as soon as practicable on the day of the student's absence (allowing time for parents to respond prior to the end of that school day). Please refer to [eMinerva – Marking Attendance](#).

If a parent or carer chooses to keep their child at home or out of the learning program without a reasonable excuse, schools should implement the usual student absence procedures.

## 6 BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS

Catholic Education operated residential boarding facilities are open for all students, having satisfied risk assessment requirements.

Decisions for students to return to residential boarding facilities must be made in conjunction with parents or carers.

Boarding students who reside in designated Indigenous communities and have not yet returned to their boarding facility, will continue to have their learning program provided by the school at which they are usually enrolled. These students may continue to access their local school where there is a documented agreement signed by both principals.

## 7 CONTRACTORS AND EXTERNAL WORKERS

Schools will need to ensure any contractor, supplier or external support worker entering the school to undertake work or provide services complies with the on-site health and safety measures outlined within the school's COVID-19 plan.

Contractors may also need to supply schools with their own COVID plans on a case by case basis. For example, a delivery service person may follow the schools COVID-19 measures, but a tutor will need to have a documented plan on how they will deliver their services. Communication is key, and these plans should be discussed with providers.

All persons coming onto site will need to continue to sign in, to assist with contact tracing.

## 8 CURRICULUM AND SUPERVISION

### 8.1 STUDENTS LEARNING AT HOME DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS

Students unable to return to school or participate in the learning program due to medical reasons should be supported by their school, just as they would in the case of any extended student medical absence.

This includes students where a medical practitioner has advised in writing the student should not attend school as parents or other family members have medical conditions that place them at risk.

Schools can determine the most appropriate approach, taking into account the expected duration of absence, the student's learning needs, available tools and resources, and the school's established approach to supporting continuity of learning.

### 8.2 ACADEMIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Schools have flexibility to choose how they report on academic achievement for Term 2 by customising their academic reporting to reflect choices made about curriculum delivery in Semester 1. Primary model reporting allows schools to select the subjects that are included, but RE, English, Mathematics,





and Science cannot be removed in Prep to Year 6, and English and Mathematics cannot be removed in special schools. Secondary model reporting is derived from the school's timetable and English, Mathematics and Science cannot be removed for Years 7 to 10.

If schools are preparing printed report cards, either a comment or no-comment format can be chosen.

Parent-teacher interviews, approved by the principal, can occur ensuring physical distancing requirements are maintained and other COVID-19 control measures are implemented. Where possible, options for teleconference or online platforms should be available.

### 8.3 ADVICE FROM THE QUEENSLAND CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (QCAA)

As schools with senior secondary students would be aware, the QCAA Board removed one of the three internal assessments from the summative assessment requirements for all General and Applied subjects.

The QCAA has published [Principles and advice for P-10 during COVID-19 disruptions](#), addressing common curriculum questions, teaching and learning, assessment and reporting.

The QCAA will continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on senior secondary schooling including any changes that might be required to external assessment.

On 31 March 2020, to support teachers to review their assessment programs, QCAA provided subject-specific advice to schools about the nature and timing of the next internal assessment.

The [QCAA website](#) has frequently asked questions for parents and students about the removal of an internal assessment including clarification that this will not impact the calculation of students' ATARs.

The department will continue to work with QCAA and provide schools with advice regarding Years 11 and 12.

## 9 SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Whole of school assemblies may commence with the principal ensuring that physical distancing requirements are maintained for all adults and other COVID-19 control measures are implemented. Outdoor, undercover areas are recommended for assemblies, to promote natural ventilation.

Students should be grouped by classes or similar to prevent mingling.

As with classrooms, there is some flexibility in applying the venue density rule to students in other indoor areas of the school. Where assemblies are held indoors such as a hall, the venue density rule does not strictly apply, but school should work to ensure that students have reasonable spacing. Measures should be taken to avoid queuing, or other situations where students or staff are forced into close quarters.

Staff must always maintain physical distancing from each other.

These assembly guidelines may also be applied to other similar activities within the school such as presentations.

## 10 FORMALS AND GRADUATIONS

Where formals and graduations are to be held within the school, the [School Assemblies section](#) will provide some clarity on required measures.



Formals and graduations are permitted to be held at businesses that have approved [COVID Safe Industry Plans](#). If formals and graduations are to be held at a business or organisation not covered by an approved COVID Safe Industry Plan, the principal must ensure all measures have been taken to meet departmental and Chief Health Officer requirements. For further details on COVID requirements and numbers, please refer to the [External Providers section](#) for more details.

## 11 FETES, PRESENTATIONS, GRADUATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

Schools may have fetes, presentations and other public gatherings with up to 500 people, providing they have completed the [COVID Safe Event Checklist](#), and operate under its guidance. No approval is required from Public Health. For events larger than 500 persons, please contact the [WHS Manager](#).

The checklist covers all relevant areas of concern, including record keeping for contact tracing, hygiene and physical distancing measures, and information display requirements. It is important that all relevant section of the checklist are adhered to.

Events which are held for staff and students only will not require a COVID Safe Event Checklist, but where parents or other public members are involved, then the Checklist will be required. Where the public are involved, students and staff are to be included in the total count of persons allowed.

For school events that will be held externally, please see the following section on formals and graduations.

### 11.1 FORMALS AND GRADUATIONS

Formals and graduations are permitted to be held at businesses that have approved an [COVID Safe Industry Plan](#). If formals and graduations are to be held at a business or organisation not covered by an approved COVID Safe Industry Plan, the principal must ensure all measures have been taken to meet departmental and Chief Health Officer requirements. For further details on COVID requirements and numbers, please refer to the [External Providers section](#) for more details.

## 12 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Normal Catholic Education guidelines require evacuation drills (fire, lockdown, bomb threat) to be undertaken once per term, with the Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008 requiring one fire evacuation to be undertaken annually. Moving into Term 3, schools will need to resume their evacuation drills, albeit in a modified manner.

Like school assemblies, larger gatherings for drills will be allowed with no limit on student numbers. Schools must ensure that adults comply with physical distancing requirements.

## 13 EXCURSIONS AND CAMPS

Excursions and camps are permitted to be held under the provision that they comply with the current state government public health advice.

Schools will need to continue to have risk management plans in place for excursions as per normal, however these should now include COVID measures. The key things here are ensuring that plans detail:

- physical distancing arrangements





- environmental cleaning duties/frequencies
- a procedure to ensure unwell students or staff do not attend
- a procedure to determine how to deal with students or staff who develop flu like symptoms during excursions

Planning is key, and it is recommended that school engage with excursions/camping venue and service providers as early as possible to determine requirements and any limits on numbers. Please see for the [External Providers](#) section below for further details.

### 13.1 BUSSING AND TRANSPORT

See [School Transport](#)

### 13.2 EXTERNAL PROVIDERS

Venue and service providers will need to supply the school with a COVID Safe plan to ensure that they are complying with all public health requirements. There is often a shared duty here, so the external provider plans will help to inform school risk management plans. As always communication (and documentation!) between the school and provider is key.

If the provider is operating under an approved [Industry COVID Safe Plan](#), and has the completed Statement of Compliance, then this would be ideal.

Industry approved plans often allow the venue provider to have numbers of people on site that exceed general Stage 3 restrictions. Given this, it is recommended that schools engage with venue providers early on in their planning, to determine any limits on numbers.

## 14 HEALTH SUPPORT PROCEDURES

All Cairns Catholic Education schools must continue to implement student health plans.

Advice from the Chief Health Officer indicates staff should undertake a visual assessment of the student to ensure there are no visible signs of being unwell prior to any procedure being undertaken:

- if the student appears unwell, do not continue with the procedure, follow existing guidance for unwell students/COVID-19 suspected cases, and advise parents as soon as possible
- where a student appears well, carry out the procedure with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per the table below.

Where a student has excess saliva, a risk assessment should occur in each case (as it should each time there is a procedure) to ensure that the risk of body fluid exposure is minimised and correct PPE is used (for example the addition of a gown if it is required).

It is always important to ensure that [hand hygiene](#) is carried out at the correct points of the procedure as per the [5 moments of hand hygiene](#).

Queensland Health advice has been used to inform the PPE as outlined in the table below.

Specialised health procedure	PPE
Blood glucose measurement	Gloves



Insulin pen injection or needle and syringe	Gloves
Enteral feeding	Gloves
Nasogastric feeding	Gloves
Colostomy/ileostomy care	Gloves. Plastic apron if risk of splashes (staff may choose)
Clean intermittent catheterisation	Gloves. Plastic apron if risk of splashes (staff may choose)
Continuous oxygen administration	Gloves
Administration of buccal midazolam	Gloves
Cleaning of soiling	Gloves and plastic aprons
Use of asthma reliever medication with spacer	Nil unless coughing then gloves, mask goggles/face shield*
Oral and nasal suctioning	Gloves Long sleeved fluid resistant gown mask Goggles/face shield
Tracheostomy care	Gloves Long sleeved fluid resistant gown mask Goggles/face shield

During COVID-19, this additional PPE should be considered for asthma if the student is coughing.

Schools should purchase PPE from their regular suppliers. If regular supplies are not available, then please contact the [CE WHS Manager](#).

## 15 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM, ENSEMBLES AND CHOIRS

Instrumental music programs, ensembles and choirs are able to rehearse in the school environment provided the following safety protocols are in place:

- at least 1.5 metres between singers/players in all directions and no more than 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup>



- choirs or bands that usually use a stage may need to move down to the hall floor to ensure physical distancing. Podiums/platforms with risers should not be used.
- where possible, choir practice should be held outdoors. If it is not possible to hold practice outdoors, open windows and doors or ensure air conditioning is on.
- ensure students clean hands before and after the lesson
- ensure instruments are not shared
- students should not face each other when singing or playing wind instruments
- students with wind instruments should have their own spit rag, which is placed under the instrument while it is being played. The spit rag should not be handled by anyone else and should be kept by the student in a zip-lock bag or container.
- a log of attendance should be kept.

Inter-school and external venue rehearsals or performances are not to be undertaken at this time.

The Education Queensland [Instrumental Music Program guidelines for managing hazards associated with COVID-19](#) provides guidance regarding risk management strategies and hygiene requirements that must be in place.

## 16 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

As directed by the Executive Director, there is a current travel ban on all Cairns Catholic Education related international travel until further notice.

The directive accords with decisions taken in other Australian education systems and is a further protective action to contain coronavirus (COVID-19) and to minimise risk to students and staff.

Any change to this directive will be messaged through the appropriate channels.

## 17 MEETINGS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Until physical distancing is no longer required then the preferred method of meetings should be via Zoom or other electronic means.

Physical meetings, including staff meetings and P&F meetings, can occur within school grounds, including indoor and outdoor areas, providing that all relevant public health measures are adhered to (1.5m physical distancing, 4m<sup>2</sup> per person, limits on numbers with regards to current state government requirements). Although face to face meetings are not recommended, where they are to be held, they should still allow for members to attend electronically if they wish.

A record of attendance needs to be kept and COVID plans need to deal with “pinch points” for access and egress that would prevent physical distancing requirements being maintained.

## 18 ON-SITE HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

Under the Queensland Chief Health Officer Directive, any student who is unwell must not attend school and students should remain at home until well. The school must ask parents/carers to collect their child from school if they are unwell.



In accordance with Stage 3 of Queensland's [Roadmap to easing restrictions](#), schools are required to maintain appropriate health and hygiene measures:

- regular [handwashing and hand sanitising](#), particularly before and after eating, and after going to the toilet;
- increased cleaning of school classrooms, particularly high frequency touch points including water fountains or bubblers;
- regular cleaning of playground equipment and play materials
- physical distancing of adults.

Queensland Health [advise](#) it is safe to use water fountains and bubblers. However, schools should encourage students to bring water bottles for personal use.

Schools should continue to follow the [AHPPC advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools](#).

Schools may consider using alternative spaces for learning and adjusting their school day to decrease contact between classes and year levels, to minimise gathering points and maximise airflow (with due respect to weather conditions and other safety factors) in teaching and learning spaces.

## 18.1 PHYSICAL DISTANCING WITHIN SCHOOLS

Schools will encourage staff, parents and other adult visitors to observe physical distancing measures by not congregating in areas inside or around the school. For example, it is important that parents do not gather before or after school, in the car park, at drop off and pick up time, outside classrooms or at the school gate.

Local school arrangements to practise physical distancing and minimise interaction of students and adults within the school and at school entry points may include:

- restricting adult (including visitors and parent) access to school grounds.
- staggered start, break and lunch times.
- supervision at school gates, including during drop off and pick up times and supervised movements between the school gate and classrooms.
- minimising adult access to office environments and recommending contact be made to the school via electronic means.

Some schools are allowing parents back onto school grounds during pick up and drop off times. This is always at the discretion of the school, however it is important this is managed appropriately. Whilst we are trying to keep pick up times as organised as possible, this needs to be balanced by the need to maintain a COVID safe workplace. The easing of restrictions has not changed any physical distancing requirement, so schools should continue to ensure that this is upheld. One approach may be to only allow parents of Prep and Year 1 students coming onto site to pick up times. As always, this is at the discretion of the school on how this may best be managed, but strict physical distancing is to remain the focus here.

Staff should follow these guidelines:

- avoid sharing small office spaces.
- adhere to physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres (4m<sup>2</sup> per adult in an enclosed space), including in staff rooms and other shared spaces.
- continue to practise good hand washing and cough-sneeze hygiene.



- unwell staff members must remain or return home.
- open windows to promote air flow where possible and environmental conditions such as cold weather allow.
- take appropriate security measures if working in isolated areas of school sites.

## 18.2 MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED CASES

If an outbreak should occur within one of our workplaces, Tropical Public Health would take a leading hand in organising the response, including appropriate communication, contact tracing, and guidance on the resumption of activities. Despite this, it is important that school follow particular protocol where there is a suspected case.

Usually where there is a confirmed case of coronavirus, the school will be contacted in the first place by Queensland Health or a branch of it. Where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school environment, and Queensland Health has not provided advice, then the Principal or their delegate should contact the National Coronavirus Helpline (1800 020 080) which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for further advice, as well as enacting their Critical Incident Plan

If a student or staff member is unwell, they should not attend school or should leave to go home. If they are a suspected COVID-19 case, they should self-quarantine and seek testing in accordance with Qld Health [here](#). Schools should not conduct COVID-19 testing themselves.

Staff, children or young people at school experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) should be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible. In this situation, where staff, children or a young person are experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, such persons should continue to practise hand hygiene and physical distancing.

All children and young people with a health care plan should ensure this is up to date and that, if required, it provides additional advice on monitoring and identification of the unwell child in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that schools also follow situationally appropriate environmental cleaning. For example, if a child spreads droplets (by sneezing or coughing), clean surfaces with disinfectant wipes immediately.

Schools and their communities will continue to be supported by Queensland Public Health in the event of an outbreak in their immediate or nearby areas. This will include detailed information and specific advice on additional measures to take beyond this guidance.

## 18.3 CONFIRMED CASE MANAGEMENT

The Public Health Unit will directly contact a school to confirm the presence of a confirmed COVID-19 case and will advise of any additional measures such as self-quarantine/contact tracing. Schools should continue to report any confirmed COVID-19 cases to their DSE immediately.

As per previous communications and in accordance with health authority advice, schools may be closed for a short time if there is a confirmed case. This time will be used to support contact tracing and specialist cleaning as required. What we have learnt from other schools having to shut down is that the length of closure is dependent upon the level of contact tracing required. Schools which do not strictly adhere to physical distancing for staff, may need all staff to isolate, leaving the school with no staff for the duration of the quarantine period. To avoid this scenario and to assist with contact tracing, schools must:

- Ensure physical distancing between staff is strictly adhered to





- Ensure timetables and staff calendars are accurate
- Encourage all staff and students to download the [Australian Federal Government COVIDSafe app](#).

In the event of a confirmed case, schools will also need to alert the school community effectively, so it is also important to ensure that all student contact details are correct. Where a closure is required, CES has sourced specialised cleaners to undertake COVID cleaning for the school. This cleaning will be undertaken in consultation with the cleaners, the school, CES and Qld Health.

#### 18.4 HYGIENE SUPPLIES

Schools should actively monitor cleaning and hygiene supplies and reorder in advance of needing additional materials. Most suppliers are back in stock of hygiene, cleaning and PPE supplies, but if schools are stuck, then please contact the [CES WHS Manager](#).

#### 18.5 CLEANING – FACILITIES AND PLAYGROUNDS

School cleaning should continue to prioritise frequently used areas, with extra attention to high frequency touch point surfaces such as door handles, light switches, desks, toilets, taps and sinks. This should also include sick rooms and student service areas. Common disinfectants are ineffective against coronavirus, so schools should ensure that appropriate cleaning chemicals are utilised in the correct fashion. Please see [Qld Health guidelines](#) here for further information.

Playgrounds should continue to be disinfected daily, with a focus on high touch areas. For ease of disinfection, cleaners may use bleach in a 1:50 dilution. This can be sprayed onto equipment at the end of the day and left to air-dry. Realistically, this type of playground sanitising should only take a few minutes per playspace.

#### 18.6 USE OF SHARED EQUIPMENT OR LOANED RESOURCES

Shared equipment such as ITD resources, musical instruments and sports equipment used within the school, or equipment loaned to students to take home, will require appropriate cleaning and hygiene management practices including:

- washing hands or using hand sanitiser prior to cleaning or using equipment
- cleaning equipment prior to and after use
- cleaning of equipment prior to leaving the school grounds and upon return.

Some simple strategies may be introduced to assist with the disinfecting of shared or loaned resources. When devices such as laptops and tablets which have been taken home are returned to the school, these should be sanitised with alcoholic wipes prior to being put back into circulation within the school community.

With equipment such as board games, toys and sporting/playground equipment where cleaning may not be practicable, these may be used on a rotating roster of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with another group of equipment to be used on Tuesday and Thursday. This will give equipment 48 hours between use, which is sufficient time for any coronavirus that may be on the surface to deactivate.

Further information regarding cleaning and disinfecting of curriculum specific equipment and PPE such as those used in science and IDT is available in the EQ document [COVID-19 cleaning of equipment for practical subjects](#).



## 18.7 LIBRARY BOOKS AND SCHOOL READERS

Libraries are an integral part of our schools, and current health and safety advice around hygiene, physical distancing, venue density and environmental cleaning would still be applicable here. Some specific guidance is provided below, which may be contextualised to meet the needs of the school.

- Encourage online reserving, to reduce handling of books during browsing
- Hand sanitiser should be kept at entry/exit points, and staff and students must clean their hands when entering and leaving
- Board games, shared devices etc must be cleaned as per [Use of shared equipment or loaned resources](#) guidance.
- Library book covers to be wiped with disinfect or alcohol wipes upon return or left aside on shelf for two days.
- Staff to maintain high levels of hygiene

## 19 OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE AND CHILDOOD & EARLY LEARNING

Like our schools, our sister Out of School Hours Care and CELEC sites continue to operate. As we often have shared sites and shared concerns with regards to managing COVID. It is recommended that schools, OSHC and CELEC work together to ensure approaches to COVID management are consistent and effective. Ideally COVID plans will be shared, reviewed and amended to ensure consistency.

## 20 CURRICULUM SUPPORT (EXTERNAL AGENCIES)

The resumption of external agencies (such as Catholic Mission and Natural Fertility Services) supporting the curriculum may commence (in person only) and principals should negotiate suitable arrangements with the provider of the relevant agency. All persons entering the school to support the curriculum must comply with the on-site health and safety measures outlined in these guidelines. This includes not attending the site if unwell, maintaining physical distancing requirements and practicing good health and hygiene.

## 21 CHURCH AND PARISH BUILDINGS

Currently our churches are operating under an approved Industry COVID Plan, which requires a number of things, including retaining a record of attendees to the site. Where churches and parish buildings are used for school student activities, then the normal church COVID plan does not apply. Regardless, schools should communicate with their local parish to ensure that appropriate measures are in place when using parish building, including provision of cleaning after use. Note that adults, including parents and caregivers, attending such activities would still be subject to distancing requirements and the Industry COVID Plan.

## 22 SCHOOL SPORTS

The [COVID-19 Return to school sport planning considerations](#) document is provided to support planning for return to intra and inter-school sport.

For inter-school sport, each school must also complete Sections 2 to 8 of the Queensland Government Return to Play Readiness Checklist for each sporting event that is planned.



Resources, including FAQs and a calendar of state championship events, are available to support schools.

Based on advice from Queensland's Chief Health Officer, school swimming pools can reopen for use. Schools may wish to consider their plan in managing the use of swimming pools, including limiting lessons and training to year levels so as to decrease contact between classes and year levels.

## 23 SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Transport arrangements will continue to operate for students including specialist school transport for students with disability.

Physical distancing requirements are exempt for public transport (including buses) however, physical distancing guidelines should be followed at bus interchange locations pick-ups and drop-off and, at/on other shared transport services.

Transport operators will ensure buses and surface touch points are cleaned after each trip.

Please refer to the [CE Bussing guidelines](#) for a simple one page fact sheet.

## 24 USE OF FACILITIES AND SCHOOL AMENITIES

Principals may negotiate the use of their facilities for external users if the external user has met the requirements of Queensland Health approved [COVID Safe Industry Plans](#). As the facility owner, the principal should be involved in the assessment process and be provided with a signed Statement of Compliance.

If external organisations, businesses or community groups not covered by an approved COVID Safe Industry Plan want to access school facilities, the principal must ensure all measures have been taken to meet departmental and Chief Health Officer requirements. A risk assessment taking into account approved COVID-19 control measures must be undertaken prior to approval.

## 25 VISITORS

Schools will need to ensure any visitors, including parents, carers, and adult volunteers entering the school grounds comply with the on-site health and safety measures outlined in the school's COVID Management Plan. This includes not attending the site if unwell, maintaining physical distancing requirements and practising good health and hygiene.

Regular sign in procedures and blue card checks still apply. For visitors attending presentations etc, please refer to the [Fetes, Presentations, Graduations and other Public Events](#) section.