



Term 2 schooling arrangements

Restrictions lifted for public schools as WA moves into Phase 3 of COVID recovery.

From **Monday 8 June** restrictions have been lifted to allow parents, carers and visitors inside schools for meetings and to drop off and pick up students, subject to physical distancing and hygiene measures.

Additional arrangements include:

- Events and activities such as assemblies, excursions, interschool activities, school choirs and examinations can now resume providing schools abide by a limit of 100 people in indoor settings and 300 people in outdoor areas.
- School camps will now be permitted for up to 100 people, with schools required to follow the WA Department of Education's excursion policies and Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice. Additional guidelines have been developed to provide schools with further information relating to camps.
- Sports training, games and interschool competitions will now also recommence with schools following the same guidelines as the community for the number of people per indoor and outdoor space.
- In-term swimming classes can immediately recommence for students with physical distancing and good hygiene practices applying.
- Students in secondary years are also able to get back to their work placements as long as schools make sure the employers are complying with WA COVID-19 Health Guidelines.
- Canteens can now provide a dine-in service for up to 100 people, and school libraries can allow 100 people in a shared space or up to 300 people if the facility includes multiple divided spaces.
- The AHPPC is currently reviewing its advice in regards to the risk management for boarding schools and residential colleges.

It is expected that schools continue to follow good personal hygiene practices and additional cleaning regimes.

High frequency cleaning will continue throughout the school day at all WA public schools.

As per the WA COVID-19 Roadmap, all school activities will be reviewed again in preparation for Phase 4.

Since **Monday 18 May**, all Western Australian public school students have been required to return to school.

- The exception is where a student cannot attend school based on medical advice for them or a member of their household. These students will continue to learn from home and will be supported by their schools and the Department of Education.
- Students who do not return to school from 18 May, without a medical reason, will no longer be provided with learning packages and they will be marked absent.
- School activities may resume in line with the latest health advice, including essential student health and wellbeing services.
- In line with AHPPC advice to reduce out of facility visits, students may only leave on the weekend, at the discretion of the Principal or Manager.
- Students in residential facilities will be now permitted to return home at weekends at the discretion of the principal.
- For Year 12 students, the 2020 ATAR course written exams will go ahead as scheduled from 2 November and will take the same form as previous years.
- Parents will receive individual feedback about their child's progress for Semester 1 however, schools will not be required to report using the usual A to E report format.
- Strict environmental cleaning throughout the school day, including high-touch surfaces and playground equipment will continue, as will reinforced hygiene measures.

The State Government is investing in additional teachers to support those students who for medical reasons will learn from home and specialist staff will be employed to help students reconnect with their school.

Individual schools will provide further information to their parents and carers on how each school will manage these changes.

Going forward arrangements for schools will be considered in line with our phased approach and roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions in our State. As always, State Government decisions will be based on the best health advice.

Access [translated versions](#)¹ of this information.

Health and hygiene

Arrangements in place for Term 2 with regard to safety, to reduce direct contact, enhance personal hygiene practices, and strengthen cleaning regimes in our schools.

- The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority and there is an additional \$43 million invested into cleaning.
- All schools will have cleaning staff working throughout the day to ensure all high-use areas, such as benchtops, desks, doorknobs, taps and hand rails, are regularly cleaned and surfaces disinfected.
- Playgrounds will be open and play equipment will be cleaned before school and after each break.
- Supplies of soap and other cleaning agents are available for all schools.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands as often as possible.

Schools can choose to implement staggered starts, breaks and meal times to reduce contact. The latest national medical advice confirms that the two square metre rule and the 1.5 metre distancing between students during classroom activities is not required.

[Minister's Media Statement - 8 June 2020: Restrictions lifted for public schools as WA moves into Phase 3 of COVID recovery](#)²

[Premier's Media Statement - 14 May 2020: All WA students to return to school from next week](#)³

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools \(24 April 2020\)](#)⁴

[Updated Advice from the Chief Health Officer - Information on schools and early childhood centres for parents](#)⁵