

Fact Sheet – Re-opening playgrounds, skate parks, outdoor gym equipment, water fountains and barbeques

Phase 3 commencing 6 June 2020

The WA Government has implemented a staged lifting of COVID-19 restrictions based on the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the WA Department of Health.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to supplement the [COVID Safety Guidelines](#) and provide advice for the re-opening of playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment. This includes playgrounds, skate parks, outdoor gym equipment, BMX and pump tracks, and public shared amenities such as public toilets, water fountains and barbeques.

Responsible organisations, such as businesses and local governments are **not** required to complete a COVID Safety plan for re-opening their playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment.

Instead, responsible organisations are should familiarise themselves with this advice and must ensure signage is displayed at their relevant premises, as outlined below.

Safety requirements

All businesses and responsible organisations are required to mitigate the risks of COVID-19. The safety requirements and public health principles for the safe reopening of all places are:

- Ensure gatherings are limited as per the public gathering rule
- Physical distancing
- Maintain hygiene and frequent cleaning
- Maintain attendance records of patrons (for the purposes of contact tracing)

Applying these principles to un-supervised open spaces, such as playgrounds and skate parks, will require a different approach than with supervised facilities. Responsible organisations can take steps to support users to practice physical distancing and good personal hygiene.

These steps include posting signage and implementing hygiene and cleaning measures, where appropriate and reasonable.

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Signage and public messaging

Re-opening outdoor facilities will require a higher level of personal responsibility from the individual user.

Responsible organisations should place signage at prominent locations at playgrounds, outdoor equipment, skate parks and BMX tracks etc, reminding users that they have a personal responsibility to practice physical distancing and personal hygiene.

Signage should include the following messages:

- Stay home if you are unwell: even if you don't think you could have COVID-19.
- All users have a responsibility for their personal hygiene and physical distancing
- Advice on what the current maximum capacity is per playground/activity area as per the 2 sqm per person
- Physical distancing should be observed where possible, mainly for those who are using the area surrounding the playground or skate park (i.e. parents watching their children)
- A reminder to wash hands/use sanitiser before, during and after using any shared public equipment or facilities
- Encourage users to limit extended stays – i.e. 'Enjoy and leave', limit your usage to 1 hour

The following messages could also be considered:

- Information on the location of the closest hand washing facilities
- Bring your own hand sanitiser with you to use
- Promote the use of the COVIDsafe app (in lieu of capacity to maintain attendance records) – *"Individuals who wish to use these facilities are encouraged to download the Australian Government's COVIDsafe app to assist in contact tracing during the COVID-19 pandemic."*
- If the playground/skate park is too crowded, consider coming back at another time
- Minimise use of shared equipment at skate parks, BMX and pump tracks

An example of a sign is attached. This is a fillable sign that you can print and display at your facility. If you wish to develop your own sign, you should include similar messages.

Personal Hygiene

Hand hygiene

Soap and water can be used for hand hygiene at any time and should be used when hands are visibly soiled. This may be unavailable at a playground, skate park or exercise equipment however if toilet facilities are available these should be equipped with soap and paper towels.

Alcohol-based hand rub (sanitiser) can be used if soap and water are not readily accessible, except when hands are visibly soiled.

Hands should be cleaned before and after eating, and after going to the toilet.

Sneeze/cough etiquette

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and dispose of tissue immediately or cough/sneeze into the bend of your elbow. Wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

Cleaning

For these outdoor facilities to reopen, which by nature are high touch surfaces, responsible organisations will need to consider the frequency of routine cleaning.

In accordance with Department of Health guidelines, high touch surfaces should be frequently and mechanically cleaned with:

- a neutral detergent solution with a pH between 6 and 8 (as per manufacturer's instructions), or
- combined detergent / disinfectant wipes or solutions that can be prepared fresh each day (as long as mechanical cleaning is achieved).

Attention should be given to handrails, handles and any surfaces frequently touched by individuals to safely use the equipment. Although skate parks can primarily be used with an individual's own equipment (skateboards, scooters and bikes); handrails and areas where individuals may sit should be cleaned frequently.

Where possible, responsible organisations should consider increased maintenance of hand washing facilities or the provision of hand sanitisers near playgrounds.

Higher usage outdoor venues (including playgrounds, skateparks) that attract a larger number of visitors may consider cleaning regimes where practicable.

Cleaning products should be chosen that are approved for the surface to be cleaned. Some products such as bleach can damage fabrics, stainless steel and other surfaces.

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Physical distancing

Practice physical distancing, by keeping 1.5 metres apart where possible. Spectators should maintain this distance, and those who are exercising, riding, playing or on a walkway should attempt to maintain distance where possible, noting that they may temporarily come into close contact.

Users are encouraged to limit their usage of outdoor equipment to 1 hour per day, with usage on a 'enjoy and leave' basis with extended stays to be discouraged.

Where individuals are regularly handling high touch areas on playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment the risk of transmission increases. This is where strict hand hygiene is required to reduce the likelihood of spreading the virus.

Calculating maximum occupancy

The maximum occupancy for activity areas (i.e. playground, skate park) can be calculated by following these steps:

1. Measure the area accessible to the public.

To find the square meterage for a rectangular area, multiply the length times the width. If there are adjoining areas or alcoves, measure them and calculate the square meterage. Add the results of each measurement together to find the total area in square metres.

2. Divide the total square meter area by 2 to give the maximum permissible number of patrons. Any establishment with a total area greater than 80sqm will be limited to 40 patrons.

Further information

- [Environmental Cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#) - WA Department of Health (8 April 2020)
- [Information about routine environmental cleaning and disinfection in the community](#) (external site) - Australian Department of Health
- [WA Department of Health COVID-19 information](#)
- [COVID Safety Guidelines – Further information for Local Government](#)
- Enquiries: LGresponse@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

This information has been prepared by the Department of Health and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

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Sample Signage

An example of signage is provided below. This has been provided as a fillable PDF form that you can print and display at your facility and is located [online](#). If you wish to develop your own sign, you should include similar messages.



Give everyone a go
Limit your usage to
1 hour

Responsible use

Public equipment or facility

[Insert playground or facility name here]

[Insert Local Government/business name here]

Practice good hygiene

Wash your hands or use sanitiser often



- Before, during and after using public equipment or facilities
- Be responsible for your own hygiene (and your children's)
- Closest sanitisers and hand washing facilities are located at

[Insert location/directions]

Physical distancing

Keep your distance



- If this facility is too crowded, come back another time

COVID-19 safety

If you are sick, stay home



- We all have a role to play
- Protect yourself and others
- Download the COVIDsafe app

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