

Outdoor Education NSW Pty Ltd

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policy

Outdoor Education NSW (OENSW) is the provider of Outdoor Education Camps, however, the primary care giver and Duty of Care of the students whilst on camp is the responsibility of the visiting school and in particular the highest ranking teacher on site. Whilst OENSW has its own set of Standard Operating Procedures and Emergency Response Procedures we always work in conjunction with each schools policies and procedures along with their relevant governing bodies. This is relevant for all aspects of your Outdoor Education camp.

With the current situation relating to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) we have drawn up a specific policy regarding our procedures on the matter.

What is a coronavirus and COVID-19?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). This new coronavirus originated in Hubei Province, China and the disease outbreak is named COVID-19.

How is this coronavirus spread?

The coronavirus is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes, or
- touching objects or surfaces (such as door handles or tables) contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

Most infections are only transmitted by people when they have symptoms. These can include fever, a cough, sore throat, tiredness and shortness of breath.

What is OENSW doing to help prevent the spread of coronavirus?

OENSW staff are regularly mentioning to our clients to practise good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene as this is the best defence against most viruses. The key points mentioned are:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet
- Cover your cough and sneeze, dispose of tissues, and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Avoid touching your face and nose as this is a common way to spread viruses
- and if unwell, avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people).

What additional cleaning is happening to prevent the spread of coronavirus?

OENSW has always had a highly standard of cleaning before, during and after camps, however, we have gone to extensive lengths to limit the potential spreading of viruses.

This has been achieved through several factors

- Cleaning prior to camp and after camp has finished continues the same high standard, however, with an extensive focus on all “high touch” areas (e.g. Taps, toilets, Door handles, light switches etc)
- Regular cleaning during a camp program whilst students are on activities or in the dining / meeting hall
- Using a variety of commercial grade cleaning and disinfectant products.
- Cutlery is put through the dishwasher twice

If a student, teacher or staff member presents with the symptoms associated with Coronavirus what are our procedures?

1. The Student, teacher, visitor or staff member is isolated along with their belongings (we have a number of areas with single and multiple beds, toilets etc available)
2. If a student is isolated their parent or primary care giver is contacted and arranged to come and collect the student and take them to a medical facility to be tested. They cannot return to camp as it is unlikely they will receive the results till after the completion of the original program.
3. If a teacher, visitor or staff member is isolated they can arrange their own transport to a medical facility. They cannot return to camp as it is unlikely they will receive the results till after the completion of the original program
4. OENSW then follows the visiting schools policies and procedures on a timeline for the rest of the students to depart camp. Factors to consider with this decision include:
 - Do the remaining students finish their camp and depart as per the original transport requirements?
 - Is a transport company arranged to transport to the students back home as soon as possible?
 - Are parents required to pick up their own student/s?

If it is found that a student, teacher or staff member has had direct contact with someone who has contracted the Coronavirus what are our procedures?

The person is isolated as per the above treatment for a person who presents with the virus symptoms

It is important to note that most schools policies involve the highest ranking teacher on site having the duty of care of the students on camp. At all times it is recommended to speak with the Principal and relevant governing bodies in accordance with the correct procedures for each school as this can sometimes differ. OENSW will assist in any way possible to follow those policies and procedures.