

COVID SAFETY PLAN – SCHOOL EDUCATION

Version 1 – 19 October 2020



Taronga is committed to keeping you safe. Our site-wide and education specific COVID Safety Plans have been developed under advice sought from NSW Health, State & Federal Governments, and NSW Department of Education. Safety is our priority and when your school visits Taronga Western Plains Zoo, our plans are in place to keep you safe, along with our staff, volunteers, and of course, our animals.

To find out more about what Taronga Zoo is doing to keep you and your students safe during your visit, [visit our website](#). The plan is constantly monitored and will be updated accordingly.

WHAT WE'RE DOING TO KEEP YOU SAFE

Wellbeing of Staff, Students, and Guests

- Taronga is a certified COVID Safe location.
- Guests are not permitted to visit Taronga or stay overnight if it contravenes state or federal travel restrictions, border closures, and public health orders relating to COVID-19 hotspots.
- Taronga has implemented COVID Safe wardens, staff, additional signage, distance markers and announcements to remind all guests on how to remain COVID safe.
- Taronga's friendly staff all wear masks when interacting with guests.



Physical Distancing

- Guest capacity is limited each day, all transactions are contactless, keeper talks have gone virtual and some areas have reduced capacity limits.
- All guests are required to remain at least 1.5m away from fellow guests and staff. School students are not required to be physically distant from each other but must adhere to the 1.5m distance from all guests and staff.

Hygiene & Cleaning

- Taronga has implemented increased cleaning throughout the Zoo, with a focus on food and dining areas, bathrooms, high-frequency contact points.
- Additional hand washing and hygiene sanitisation stations are readily located throughout the Zoo, including additional sanitisation points in Taronga Education facilities.
- Taronga Education facilities and resources are thoroughly disinfected following each use.

Record Keeping

- Contact Tracing measures are in place for all guests, staff, volunteers, and contractors at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. An attending school staff member is required to provide their name and contact details to the Taronga Western Plains Zoo Admin prior to their visit. This staff member is responsible for providing the names and contact details of all participating adults and students if required by NSW Health, in the event of a positive or suspected COVID-19 case.

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WHAT STAYING COVID SAFE MEANS FOR SCHOOL

Wellbeing of Staff, Students, and Guests

- In line with advice for school attendance, staff and students must not attend work/school if they are unwell, including displaying even minor flu-like symptoms. In the event of a student or school staff member becoming unwell during the excursion, please contact a member of the Taronga Western Plains Zoo staff to seek first aid, where the student will be isolated and provided with PPE. It is the responsibility of the school staff to arrange for the parent or carer to collect the student from Taronga Western Plains Zoo as soon as possible. This requirement must be included in the school's excursion permission note.

Physical Distancing for School Students and Teachers

- Education Programs, eg Zoo Education Workshops, are conducted in accordance with NSW Government guidelines on Schools & Childcare. Students do not need to follow strict adult physical distancing guidelines but a physical distance on at least 1.5m must be maintained between staff and students at all times, including during education workshops.
- When exploring Taronga Zoo, schools are encouraged to limit group sizes to a maximum of 20, including supervising teachers and adults, and limit contact between student cohorts where possible.
- Avoid forming large groups or congregations at locations prone to crowding, such as in food service areas and at animal exhibits. School groups and supervising teachers and adults are expected to be respectful of all Taronga Western Plains Zoo guests and staff at all times, ensuring a safe and positive experience for all.

Hygiene & Cleaning

- While Taronga has provided increased hand sanitisation stations throughout the site, school staff and students are encouraged to bring their own personal hygiene kit, and thoroughly wash hands or sanitise regularly, especially before and after meals.
- Resources, clothing, food and drink should not be shared between students, and staff. Ensure that each individual student has their own water bottle and adequate sun protection to minimise risk with sharing.

TARONGA EDUCATION'S TOP COVID SAFE TIPS

- Download the [COVIDsafe app](#).
- Suggested morning tea/lunch locations are the African Savannah Picnic Grounds (M14), Wild Asia Wetlands (R13) and Bushland Picnic Grounds (X8). All of these areas allow space to spread out and spectacular views of the animals. Please remind students to not feed the birds and wildlife.
- When attending Taronga Western Plains Zoo be sure to arrive early, maintain 1.5m distance from other guests at all times and follow the guidance of our helpful staff.
- Hand sanitisation stations can be found throughout the zoo. Please see the Taronga Western Plains Zoo Map for specific locations.
- Have fun! Staying COVID safe is everyone's responsibility and Taronga Western Plains Zoo Education appreciate your support in ensuring that Taronga Western Plains Zoo remains a safe and inspirational location for all!