



Australian National
Botanic Gardens

Australian National Botanic Gardens Education Activities COVID-19 Safety Plan

FEBRUARY 2022



Australian Government
Parks Australia

Australian National Botanic Gardens Education Activities

COVID-19 Safety Plan February 2022

Education COVID-19 Safety Measures

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, our education team has implemented procedures to ensure the continued safety of students, teachers and staff during excursions to the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG). While still encouraging an immersive outdoor experience, all our facilitated education programs adhere to [ACT Government regulations and requirements](#) and the latest advice from the [ACT Education Directorate](#). School groups must ensure they comply with all safety measures in place.

For all education programs the following safety measures are in place.

Maximum Group Size

The maximum school group size is restricted to 120 attendees including students, teachers and assistants.

Physical Distancing

ANBG Staff are trained in social distancing and will maintaining a distance of 1.5 metres between themselves and all attendees. To enable this, portable microphones are in use to ensure students can hear presenters and to reduce airborne infection risk.

Students are not expected to socially distance from each other, however all educators should maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between themselves.

Cleaning, Sanitising and Hygiene

Good hygiene practices and general cleaning helps with minimising the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Sanitation stations have been set up at key high-contact locations throughout the ANBG. Signage has been installed in key locations to remind visitors and staff to wash and sanitise hands.

ANBG's contracted cleaning contractor has provided their COVID procedure document. Cleaning procedures have been implemented across site as per ANBG program/activity specific COVID Safety Plans.

ANBG Staff are trained in appropriate cleaning and disinfection methods. All equipment is disinfected prior to use and control measures are in place to ensure there is no shared equipment use. All indoor spaces used for education program purposes will be cleaned and sanitised in preparation for use following the [WorkSafe ACT Cleaning Checklist](#).

All education programs have hygiene and hand sanitising stations provided. ANBG Staff are trained to ensure appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene. The ANBG has departmental guidelines in place to ensure staff stay home if they are feeling unwell or if they have been in close contact with a person who has or is currently being tested for COVID-19.

Staff, visitors, or attendees presenting with illness

The Government is urging everyone to stay home if they are unwell. This applies to staff and the broader community. ANBG will send staff home and turn visitors away if they have clear symptoms of illness.

ANBG staff will be directed to get tested for COVID if they experience any of the symptoms of COVID and not attend the site until a negative test result is obtained and symptoms have resolved.

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Mandatory Face Masks

When required by ACT Health Direction, ANBG staff will wear masks and comply with mask requirements for educational visitors over 12 with the following exemptions;

- If the person has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face mask detrimental to their condition.
- If the person is consuming food, drink or medicine.
- If the person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- When visibility of the mouth is essential for communication.
- Due to the nature of a person's essential work.
- While undertaking vigorous exercise outdoors.
- Because of an emergency

Wearing face masks reduces the risk of transmission of COVID and mask wearing is encouraged at the ANBG at all other times. When masks are not mandatory, Education staff will carry a mask and wear a mask if requested by teachers or supervisors.

Face masks need to be properly fitted to the face and worn to cover both your nose and mouth. The term face mask includes both cloth masks and single use face masks (commonly known as surgical masks). Both masks are suitable for use to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID -19).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Appropriate PPE is available for staff (masks/gloves). Staff have been trained in the safe use, maintenance and disposal of any PPE provided.

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Changes to Programs

Each education program has specific COVID-19 safety measures in place. Staff have been trained to comply with ANBG COVID safety procedures.

Education Programs have been adjusted to take advantage of outdoor learning spaces and reduce COVID risks. The following changes apply to education programs until July 2022.

Program	COVID adjustments
Twilight 90 minutes	Tour only, no supper

Risk Assessment and Public Liability Insurance

The ANBG risk assessment for school visits is available at [Venue & Safety Information for Schools](#) and Parks Australia Public Liability Insurance at [Certificate of Currency](#).

How Teachers and supervisors can assist

- Ensure that students have been briefed and are prepared to leave a 1.5 metre space between themselves and ANBG Staff.
- Ensure students and adults use hand sanitiser or wash their hands regularly while at the ANBG.
- Ensure adults socially distance to 1.5 meters from each other.
- Discuss with an ANBG staff member if you have any concerns regarding COVID-19 safety.
- Teachers and students over 16 should check in using Check In CBR when required by ACT Health
- Wear masks when directed by ACT Health.
- Ensure that students, teachers and supervisors do not attend programs if unwell or directed to quarantine by ACT Health.